THE

MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

BY

MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

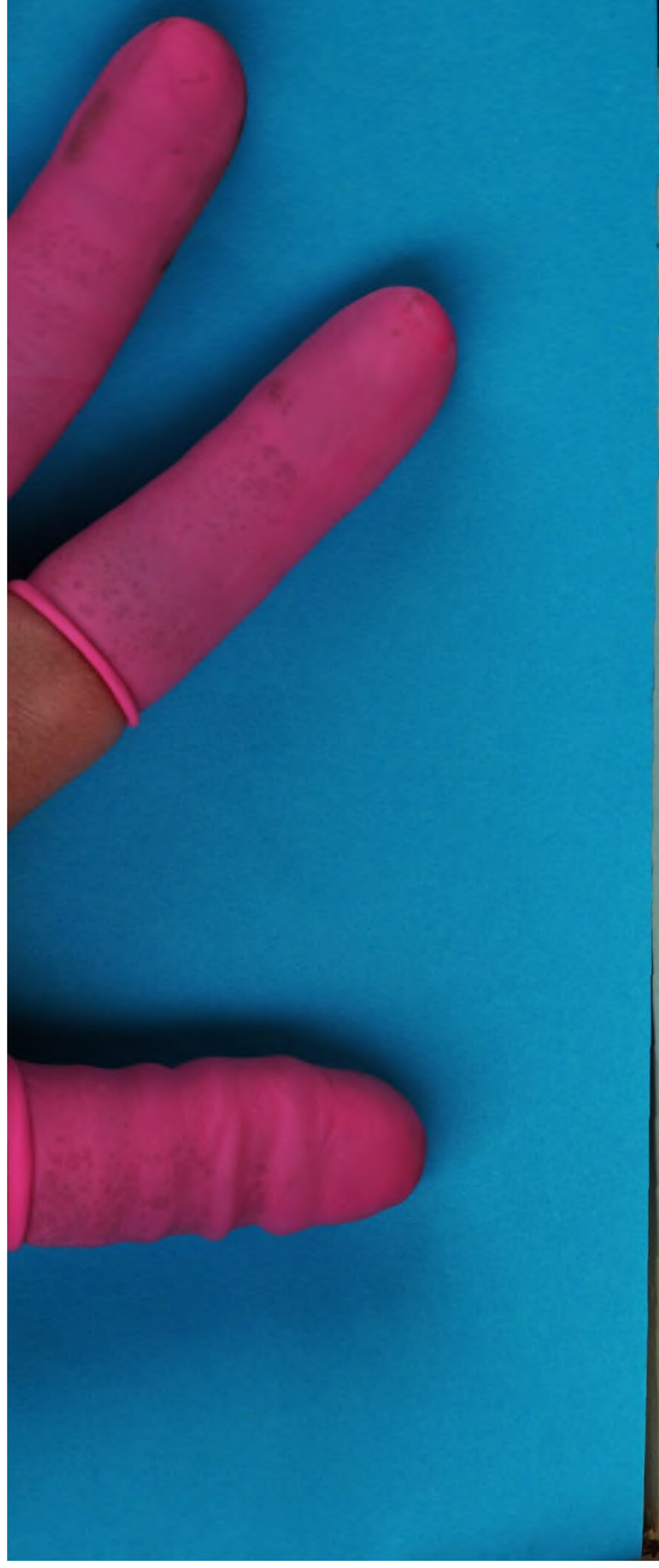
LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR,

And sold by all the Bookfellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



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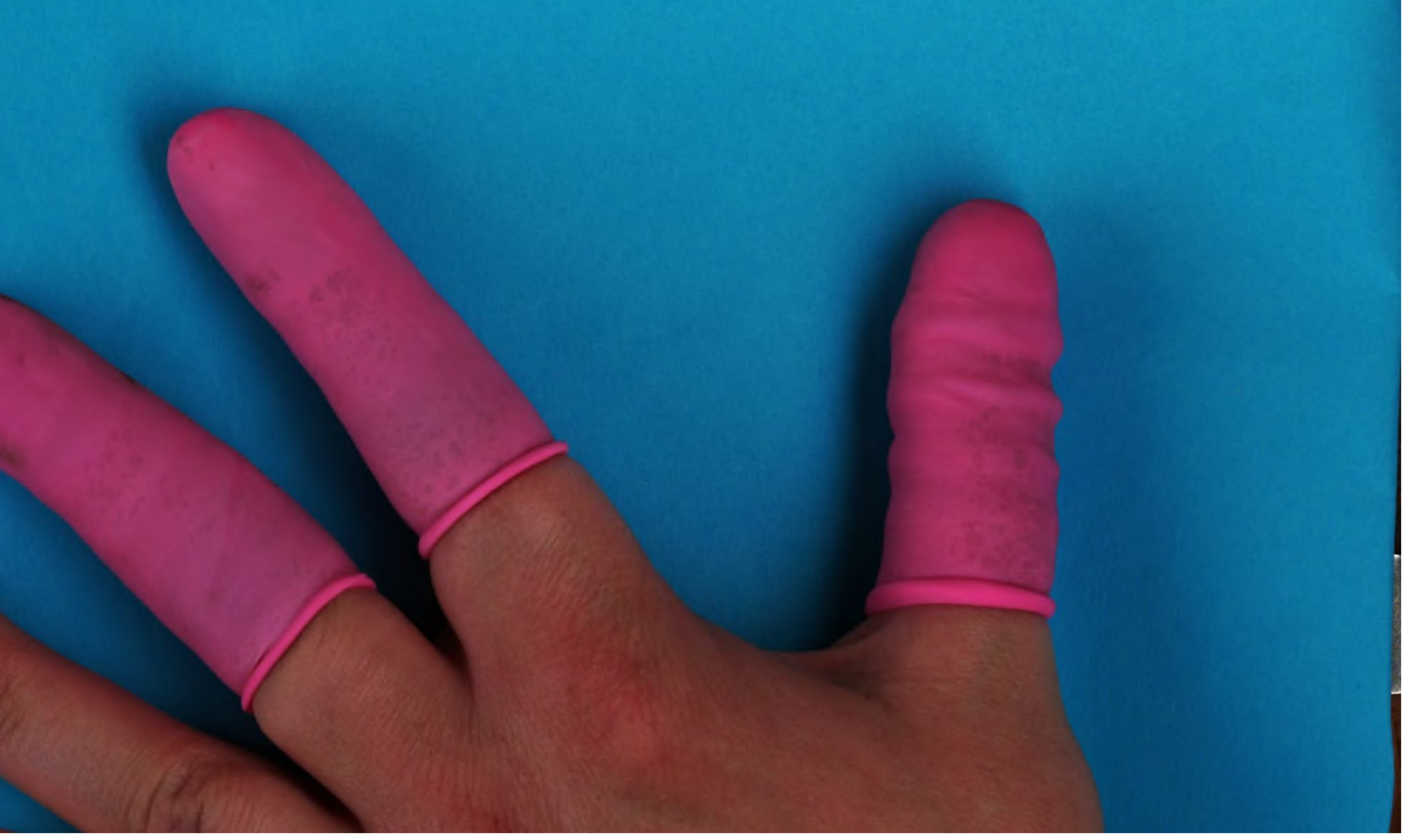

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Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

IN order to give the reader an opinon of the authenticity of theſe memoirs, it may not be unneceſſary to inform him, that I was acquainted with Mrs. Baddeley from her earlier days; that as children we were brought up together, and educated at the ſame ſchool; that our in-

timacy continued through the whole of her life, and that for ſeveral years of it, ſhe lived in my houſe; that as her friend and confidante ſhe unboſomed herſelf to me, and that of courſe there was no material occurence of her life, but I was made acquainted with; and the ſubſequent pages and vouchers will declare the truth of this aſſertion.

I ſhall not treſpaſs on my reader's patience by a detail of the occurences of her younger days; I will take her up from the time ſhe became a public character. Such perſons as have moved in a conſpicuous line of life naturally excite the curioſity of the world. The public has always had it's favourites, and ſince

the

the Drama has been known on the Eng-
liſh ſtage, merit in that time has been the
beſt road to acquire it's favour. The re-
fined ſentiments of this country have not
limited it's attachments to the public
character alone, but the warmth of na-
tional gratitude has followed it's favourite
from active to retired life, and alſo ex-
tended it's tributary beneficence to the
tomb, and thus enable it to ſurvive it's
mortal exiſtence. An indulgent public
will always make allowances for the
frailties of human nature, and either
conſign them to oblivion in the contem-
plation of thoſe ſtriking characteriſtics,
which attract admiration, or place them
in the ſhade of qualities that deſerve
commendation. From a conviction

that ſuch are the ſentiments and diſpoſition of a confederate and diſpaſſionate public, in whoſe memory Mrs. Baddeley ſtill holds a favourable place, theſe Memoirs are laid before them, on the confidence of their meeting a candid and indulgent reception.

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley was the daughter of Mr. Valentine Snow, late ſerjeant-trumpeter to his Majeſty, and born in the pariſh of St. Margaret, Weſtminſter, in the year 1745. Her father beſtowed on her a very genteel education, and having an uncommon degree of ſoftneſs and delicacy in her features and perſon, with every neceſſary external accompliſhment of her ſex, ſhe attracted the at-

attention and eſteem of all who knew her; and the tenor of her conduct being regulated by the ſtricteſt decorum, enſured her general reſpect.

She lived with her father till ſhe reached the age of eighteen, who inſtructed her in muſic, and was very anxious that ſhe ſhould be thorough miſtreſs of the harpſichord. Muſic however did not ſuit her taſte ſo much as a contemplative turn to reading, and the leſſons her father gave her were a taſk of labour. She made her complaints to a neighbouring ſhop-keeper, with whom Mr. Baddeley lodged, repreſented her father's anxiety for her improvement, as overbearing and tyranical, and found in this woman that offi-

that such are the sentiments and disposition of a confederate and dispassionate public, in whose memory Mrs. Baddeley still holds a favourable place, these Memoirs are laid before them, on the confidence of their meeting a candid and indulgent reception.

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley was the daughter of Mr. Valentine Snow, late serjeant-trumpeter to his Majesty, and born in the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, in the year 1745. Her father bestowed on her a very genteel education, and having an uncommon degree of softness and delicacy in her features and person, with every necessary external accomplishment of her sex, she attracted the at-

attention and eſteem of all who knew her; and the tenor of her conduct being regulated by the ſtricteſt decorum, enſured her general reſpect.

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cious interference, that under the name of friendſhip is too often the ſource of unſeen calamities. She introduced her to her lodger, gave her to underſtand that ſhe had it then in her power to free herſelf from a continuance of the ſame treatment, by accepting the protection of Mr. Robert Baddeley, who belonged to Drury-lane Theatre, and who would bring her upon the ſtage. Miſs Snow had always a *penchant* for a theatrical life, and this propoſal giving her an opportunity of gratifying her inclination, ſhe liſtened to what Mr. Baddeley had to ſay, and in a very few days eloped from home, and fled to this neighbour's houſe, who received her and ſecreted her, till ſhe became the wife of Mr. Baddeley.

This

This was in the year 1764. He ſoon procured her an engagement at Drury-lane. Cordelia, in *Lear*, was the firſt character ſhe appeared in; and young and untutored as ſhe was, ſhe gave moſt ample proofs of riſing merit, teſtified by the loudeſt plaudits of the audience.

During the repreſentation of this piece a ſingular circumſtance happened, (owing to her inexperience, having never ſeen the play, and being requeſted to read the part in the abſence of an actreſs that was taken ill) that diſturbed the performance much. When Edgar came in, as Mad Tom, his figure and manner gave her ſuch an unexpected ſhock, that through real terror ſhe ſcreamed and

fell

fell down motionleſs, and it was ſome time before ſhe recovered. The audience, to an individual, ſympathiſed with her, and ſhe reſumed her character, encouraged by the thunder of reiterated applauſe from every quarter of the houſe.

Before ſhe had been twelve months on the ſtage her merit entitled her to eſtimation as a player, and her accompliſhments had gained her general admiration; her vocal powers were in *her* day, on a level with the firſt public ſinger. She gave proofs of her abilities at Vaux-hall, and was engaged ſoon after at Ranelagh, at twelve guineas a-week. At the Theatre ſhe acquitted herſelf beſt in genteel comedy, and fur-

ther than this, ſhe never attempted; except the part of Mrs. Beverley, in the *Gameſter*, which ſhe performed once or twice, during the illneſs of Mrs. Barry, and was exceedingly well received by the public.

With all the advantages which youth, accompliſhments, and the united talents of her and her huſband could give her, Mrs. Baddeley was not without her miſfortunes. For the ſpace of three years ſhe lived with her huſband without any public impeachment on her character; but meeting at Ranelagh with Mr. Mendez, a Jew, he threw himſelf in her way, became acquainted with her and her huſband, alienated her mind from

her conjugal duty, and ſhe, unfortunately liſtening where ſhe ſhould have turned a deaf ear, agreed to go with him alone on a party of pleaſure to Stains-bridge, where ſhe committed an act that deterred her from going back to her own houſe, but, on her return ſhe flew to Mr. Charles Holland of Drury-lane Theatre; and he thonght proper to receive her. She lived with Mr. Holland till the ſmall-pox took him from her.

Dr. Hayes of Marlborough ſtreet, the phyſician who attended Mr. Holland in his laſt illneſs, knowing the deſerted ſituation in which Mrs. Baddeley was left by the death of this perſon, whom ſhe very affectionately loved, began to think his

his good offices might not be unacceptable to her; made her a tender of them in a very respectful manner, and was assiduous to pay her every attention in his power. Mrs. Baddeley, urged by her deserted situation and the importunity of her suitor, listened to his proposals; he took lodgings for her, and with him she continued eight or nine months; till Mr. David Garrick, manager of the Theatre, insisted on her leaving him; to this she assented, on condition that he would pay her her salary weekly into her own hands. Mr. Baddeley was averse to this, at least till his debts were paid; and as Mr. George Garrick interfered warmly in behalf of Mrs. Baddeley, it had nearly occasioned a

meeting in Hyde-park. The negotiation however being resumed again, Mr. Baddeley agreed that articles of separation should take place between him and his wife, provided Mrs. Baddeley would bind herself and find securities to execute a bond for the payment of his (Mr. Baddeley's) debts, then amounting to eight hundred pounds: this Mrs. Baddeley complied with, and all his debts were discharged through my hands, agreeable to the compact. The conditions of the bond were, that all debts due before the separation should be paid by Mrs. Baddeley, and that her husband should be indemnified from any debts contracted by her hereafter. The separation took place about the year 1767.

Mr.

Mr. Baddeley was indeed fued afterwards for two debts contracted by his wife, the coſts of which were paid by me to his attorney, Mr. Levy, of Fetter-lane; having got rid of theſe debts by proving the articles of ſeparation, and that his wife was in the receipt of her own ſalary.

Notwithſtanding their ſeparation, Mr. and Mrs. Baddeley continued to perform at the ſame theatre, but exchanged not a word with each other, ſave in their reſpective characters on the ſtage. In the performance of the *Clandeſtine Marriage*, when their Majeſties were preſent, Mrs. Baddeley played Fanny; Mr. Baddeley, Canton; and, Mr. King,

Lord Ogleby. Before Fanny joined them on the ſtage, the accommodating Swiſs had exerted and exhauſted all his adulation in order to recommend her to his Lordſhip's notice.

Lord Ogleby. Ah! La petite Fanchon! —She's the thing;—Is ſhe not, Cant?

Canton. Dere is very good ſympatie entre vous & dat young lady, my Lor.

Lord Ogleby. If ſhe goes, I'll poſitively go too.

Canton. In the ſame poſt-chay, my Lor?—You have no objection?—ha, ha, ha.

The effect which the officious aſſiduity of the player in the repetition of theſe words, and the following ſcene where

Fanny

Fanny joins them, and where her application to Lord Ogleby, in behalf of one ſhe loves, is miſconſtrued by them as an amorous addreſs to his Lordſhip; this effect of character on the feelings of the audience cauſed a univerſal laugh, in which their Majeſties heartily joined; and it was ſome time before Tom King (Lord Ogleby) was permitted to expreſs his approbation of the fair object ſo recommended to his tenderneſs.

Mrs. Baddeley's looks upon this occaſion were ſuch as to have a very laughable effect, and ſhe was next day honoured with a meſſage from their Majeſties, by Mr. Ramus, deſiring her to go to Zophany's and be taken for her picture in

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Fanny joins them, and where her application to Lord Ogleby, in behalf of one she loves, is misconstrued by them as an amorous address to his Lordship; this effect of character on the feelings of the audience caused a universal laugh, in which their Majesties heartily joined; and it was some time before Tom King (Lord Ogleby) was permitted to express his approbation of the fair object so recommended to his tenderness.

Mrs. Baddeley's looks upon this occasion were such as to have a very laughable effect, and she was next day honoured with a message from their Majesties, by Mr. Ramus, desiring her to go to Zophany's and be taken for her picture

in

in that attitude and situation; with which she complied, and from which a print was afterwards engraved.

This distinguishing mark of royal approbation extended her theatrical fame through every circle of fashionable and middling life, and she became caressed, adored and followed by the first persons in the nation. Nothing that rank, fortune or influence could effect, was left untried to gain her favour and attention; and it required more than female resolution to withstand the variety of temptations that were thrown in her way.

Though before this event, and indeed before her separation from her husband,

ſhe had been noticed by his Royal Highneſs the late Duke of York, whoſe taſte and vivacity led him to mix with the pleaſures of the gay world and intereſt himſelf in the general affairs of life. He could not but admire ſuch a performer as Mrs. Baddeley, where ſo much ſenſibility and beauty united, and he frequently honoured her with his viſits, often alone, and often in company with Sir John Wriotteſley. The anxiety evinced by his Highneſs on all occaſions where Mrs. Baddeley was concerned, was a proof of his regard; which was confirmed by his preſenting her with a lock of his own hair previous to his leaving this kingdom. She kept this token of the Prince's eſteem to her dying day, and

and has bequeated it to one who carefully preserves it.

On taking leave of Mrs. Baddeley, his Highness regretted the necessity he lay under of being obliged, contrary to his inclinations, to leave England; nor was he very restrained in his reflections on the cause which occasioned it.

About twelve months after the Prince's departure, and near two years prior to her separation, Sir Cecil Bishop, (father to the present Lady Warren,) took some pains to engross Mrs. Baddeley's esteem; but finding age an obstacle, he tried the effect of presents. He purchased a service of plate, to the

amount of about one hundred pounds in value, and ſent it to her, with the following note.

" Dear Mrs. Baddeley,

" I have ſent you a ſmall ſervice of
" plate, which I beg your acceptance
" of, and intend to do myſelf the honour
" to take tea with you this evening, if
" you are diſengaged.

" Your's to command,

" In every reſpect,

" Cecil Biſhop."

" *Friday Morning,*
" *Berkeley-Square.*

The

The Baronet's preſent was accepted, and alſo his viſit; (this alſo was before her ſeparation;) and after ſome time finding the interruptions of the town too frequently diſappoint the purpoſes he had in view, he propoſed to her an excurſion to his country ſeat, at Storrington, in Suſſex. After much importunity on the part of the old gentleman, (then near fourſcore years of age) Mrs. Baddeley conſented to it; but he had little cauſe to rejoice in this change of ſituation, as her invincible obduracy to his ſolicitations continued till the evening, when ſhe left him, and ſet off for Brighthelmſtone.

When it is conſidered that the gay

world

world did not produce a character but what was an admirer of Mrs. Baddeley, it is not to be ſuppoſed that age and infirmity could rivet her attention and ſupplant every other impreſſion; or that a retreat with ſuch a perſon could afford ſufficient inducement to fix a mind courted by all the gaieties and pleaſures of the age.

This plate, when ſhe parted from her huſband, ſhe took away with her and lodged in the hands of Mr. Teaſdale, Haberdaſher, in Taviſtock-ſtreet; but it was afterwards returned. Mr. Teaſdale was one who viewed her with the eyes of the beſt of her admirers, and could not reſiſt gratifying his inclina-

tions at the expence of his intereſt. He was in partnerſhip with a Mr. Squib, and Mrs. Baddeley being on their books to the amount of near two hundred pounds, for the payment of which, Squib becoming very importunate, Mr. Teaſdale abſolutely gave her the money to diſcharge this debt.

Mrs. Baddeley traverſed the gay ſcenes of life with a heart diſengaged from the trammels of love, notwithſtanding all that artifice and ingenuity could deviſe, was employed to undermine her repoſe. Among all thoſe who laboured to gain her affections, the honourable William Hanger, ſecond ſon of the late Lord Coleraine, was moſt aſſiduous and indefa-

tigable,

tigable, and at laſt ſucceeded; but as fate would have it, he ſoon loſt the footing he had gained; for taking his brother one day to ſee her, he ungenerouſly ſupplanted him in her affections. This gentleman, the honourable John Hanger, on obtaining Mrs. Baddeley's heart, made her the moſt ample and unreſerved promiſes of liberality, and pledged himſelf by the moſt ſolemn vows to give her all the ſupport and protection his fortune or affection could afford or contrive. He took a handſome lodging in Dean-ſtreet, Soho, hired her a carriage at his own expence, and his aſſiduity and tenderneſs ſoon gained him her affection. In the enjoyment of his company ſhe ſoon forgot that fortune was perverſe,

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and might unexpectedly overthrow her happineſs. For a length of time her warmeſt wiſhes met a reciprocal return, and ſhe experienced the moſt exalted enjoyment that could have ſprung from ſuch an intercourſe. The zeal of her enamorato in promiſes of liberality out-ſtripped his abilities, for his circumſcribed finances were no way adequate to realiſe the hopes he had taught Mrs. Baddeley to form. This inability, however, was far from abating her attachment to him; on the contrary, ſhe eagerly graſped at the opportunity it gave her of proving the ſincerity and diſintereſtedneſs of her affections, by expending the ſalary ſhe received from Ranelagh and the Theatre, which a-

mounted

mounted to twenty pounds a week, for their mutual expences in housekeeping.

She owed the large salary she received at Ranelagh to the partiality of Sir Thomas Robinson, who was an acting proprietor, and though a very old man, was solicitous for her favours. He took no small pains to convince her of his regard, but she was deaf to it all, and though he was frequent in his visits to her, made her a variety of small presents and offers suitable to his fortune, it would not do; she told him her heart was too far engaged to listen to his proposals, that she held herself under obligations to him in many respects, but that she could never think of receiving his visits in any other

light than that of a friend, and if he perſiſted in ſimilar applications, ſhe muſt abſolutely decline ſeing him any more.

In the mean time, the ſeveral tradeſmen from whom Mrs. Baddeley had credit, and for the payment of whoſe demands Mr. Hanger had pledged himſelf, became importunate. The debts amounted to ſeven hundred pounds, among theſe was the coach-maſter's bill for the hired carriage he engaged. His finances were by no means in a ſtate to anſwer theſe demands, though his domeſtic expences, from Mrs. Baddeley's contribution, were but trifling. Seeing his embarraſſments, ſhe propoſed a retrenchment of expences, willing to ſubmit

mit to any alternative, rather than loſe him, or ſee him unhappy. This proof of her attachment was received with very cool civility. Mr. Hanger informed her that a knowledge of their connection had reached his father's ears, and met with his diſpleaſure; that fearful of offending him and incurring debts he ſhould not be able of himſelf to pay, he ſhould be obliged to ſubmit to his father's mandates, and acquieſce in the painful neceſſity of relinquiſhing the poſſeſſion of an object he could not part from but with regret and unhappineſs.

This declaration, to a woman who had not a thought or ſentiment in her ſoul but was engroſſed by the object of it,

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it, harrowed up her feelings and ſuſpended the vital current of life for ſome moments. She fell ſenſeleſs to the floor, and it was with heartfelt labour that ſhe recovered. Obduracy itſelf could not avoid waiting the iſſue of this tranſitory ſuſpenſion without dread and horror. The unhappy dejected victim revived to gaze on the arbiter of her miſery or happineſs. She gazed and ſighed, and gazed again. One would ſuppoſe that if gratitude was extinct in Mr. Hanger's heart, decency and good nature muſt have extorted from him ſome expreſſions of tenderneſs and concern. Whatever they were, they were not the effuſions of that ſympathetic ardor which animates the breaſt of love, but a repetition only of

what

what he before had ſaid, concluding, that if his father did not precipitate him into a *forced* marriage, he would call to ſee her now and then, when he could eſcape obſervation.

He then proceeded to pack up ſuch articles as belonged to him and lay in the apartments, conſiſting only of a ſmall trunk of cloaths: whilſt he was thus employed, Mrs. Baddeley conjured him by every tye of affection not to leave her, declaring ſhe would ſubmit to any viciſſitude of fortune rather than be ſeparated from him.

But all her intreaties were in vain; Mr. Hanger withdrew and left her for condolence

condolence to her own reflections. The firſt ſtep he took after his departure, was to call on the coach-maſter and inform him, that he ſhould ceaſe to be reſponſible to him for Mrs. Baddeley's carriage from that day, leaving her at the ſame time under the dreadful apprehenſion of being importuned for thoſe debts contracted by them both. The hire of the coach was afterwards paid by me.

As ſoon as Mr. Hanger had left the houſe, Mrs. Baddeley called a hackney-chair, and ordered herſelf to be ſet down at an apothecary's in Dean-ſtreet, where ſhe aſked for three hundred drops of laudanum. The maſter of the ſhop ſcrupled ſelling ſuch a quantity, till ſhe informed

informed him who she was, adding, at the same time, that she was accustomed to take a dose of it every night, and as she was going into the country, she wished to take as much as would last till her return. The apothecary entertaining no doubt of her veracity, consented to let her have it. On her return home, she discharged the chair, went up to her chamber and swallowed the whole quantity. She then made her servant acquainted with what she had done, assuring her that her Gaby's treatment of her (for so she affectionately called Mr. Hanger) made her life insupportable, and as a short time must now terminate her existence, she enjoined her to bear him the tidings of her fate.

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The maid, alarmed at what ſhe heard, immediately called in the firſt medical aſſiſtance that could be had: Dr. Hayes, Sir John Eliot, and Dr. Turton, attended. Theſe gentlemen found her labouring under the effects of the opium, and after ſeveral hours efforts, ſucceeded ſo far as to procure an intermiſſion of her ſtupor. Her health ſuffered extremely from this raſh ſtep and the diſtraction of her mind, and at the end of ſix weeks ſhe was ſcarce able to walk. Her recovery was ſlow; indeed it was never perfectly obtained; as through the remainder of her life ſhe was afflicted with a bilious complaint that often diſordered her, and made many of her days unhappy.

Bodily indiſpoſition was not the only difficulty Mrs. Baddeley had to encounter with. Poverty ſtared her in the face, her cloaths and other valuables, of which ſhe was miſtreſs, were before diſpoſed of, to enable her to live with the man whom ſhe loved beyond every other object. Whilſt ſhe flattered herſelf that a laſting and mutual affection bound their hearts, ſhe never declined a reſource to the pawnbroker, as long as ſhe had any thing to pledge, and when he parted from her ſhe owed thirty pounds to Mrs. Bell, of Dean-ſtreet, the perſon in whoſe houſe ſhe lodged.

This was the period when I became connected with her, in the year 1769:

I had been bred at the ſame ſchool, and when we were chiidren, we were always together. Our acquintance was in ſome meaſure dropped after her marriage; but I no ſooner heard of her diſtreſs than I paid her a viſit, and, on a promiſe on her part to attend to her buſineſs, and give up all thoughts of a perſon from whom ſhe experienced ſuch unmerited treatment, I extricated her from every difficulty: I paid the greater part of her debts at that time, and the remainder afterwards. I took a houſe in St. James's Place, made it her home, and procured her a carriage. Set ſo much at her eaſe, ſhe ſoon recovered her ſpirits, and was as chearful as before.

The preſent Lord Sefton, (when Lord Molineux) had been a conſtant admirer of Mrs. Baddeley, though Mr. Hanger's attachment to her precluded him from the hopes of gaining any aſcendency in her mind; his Lordſhip therefore, during their connection, diſcontinued his viſits; but no ſooner did he hear of Mr. Hanger's deſerting her, than he availed himſelf of the opportunity and renewed his attentions. As my houſe in St. James's-place was not ready for Mrs. Baddeley's reception for a fortnight after I took it, his Lordſhip made her repeated offers of a ſettlement in the interim, if ſhe would conſent to accept of it. Her heart however being far from diſengaged from the laſt

object that poſſeſſed it, and of courſe indifferent to any other, and his Lordſhip being married to a very amiable woman, Mrs. Baddeley rejected every propoſal, and made his marriage a bar to any hopes he might entertain of ſucceſs in what he ſolicited.

Yet not diſcouraged by repeated denials, he ſtill perſevered, and having learned the embarraſſed ſituation of Mrs. Baddeley's affairs, from which ſhe was relieved only by the humanity of a friend; his Lordſhip, as a preliminary, propoſed to pay her debts and to ſettle on her four hundred pounds a year, and particularly told her that ſhe might command inſtantly a thouſand pounds to ſa-

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tisfy her creditors. Embarraſſed however as ſhe was, ſhe declined the propoſal, which his Lordſhip ſtill preſſed, and he withdrew ſaying, he would wait for an anſwer till the next day, and hoped ſhe would take that time to conſider of it.

Mrs. Baddeley was not at that time dunned with importunate creditors, but yet ſhe felt the obligation ſhe lay under to me who had relieved her from their intruſions, and wiſhed for an opportunity to repay me; at the ſame time, ſhe was convinced that the motive of my liberality was a perſonal eſteem for her, the loan being accompanied with an injunction to her to profit by what ſhe had experienced, to preſerve her heart

to herſelf, and look forward to that proſpect of eaſe and indulgence which her profeſſion and abilities would enſure her.

In this undecided ſtate of mind, ſhe adviſed with Mrs. Bell, the woman in whoſe houſe ſhe ſtill lodged in Dean-ſtreet, acquainting her with every particular of her preſent ſituation, and ſaying that her gratitude to me actuated her two different ways. She wiſhed to indemnify me for my pecuniary favours, but that the offers made her, though they might enable her to accompliſh that wiſh, were incompatible with the terms on which thoſe favours were conferred; beſides, the perſon who made

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her theſe offers, being married to a very amiable and accompliſhed woman, to whom he was inconſtant, it was a proof he was incàpable of a laſting attachment; ſhe therefore was of opinion, that let what misfortunes would happen, it would be idle to riſk her future peace by a connection, of which the continuance was unccertain.

The perſon ſhe conſulted was of a different way of thinking; the ſettlement was an object of too much conſequence to be rejected; it would outlive the conſtancy of the donor, and be a comfortable reſource when age came on. Moreover, ſhe remarked that Mrs. Baddeley ought to conſider ſhe was ſtill not leſs in

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debt to me, though not importuned; and it was natural to think that the money would be called for one day or other, when ſhe migh not have it in her power to repay me; but that if ſhe accepted his Lordſhip's propoſals, ſhe would at all times command a ſufficiency to diſcharge the obligations ſhe lay under; in ſhort the offer was a noble and a generous one, and too valuable to be over nice in the acceptance of. She ended with ſaying that ſelf-intereſt ought to be her guide, and ſhould Lord Molineux even not make her the ſettlement propoſed, he certainly would give her an equivalent.

On the contrary, Mrs. Baddeley's mind was totally averſe to forming any future

future attachment; nay ſhe went ſo far as to ſay, ſhe would rather face death than comply with Lord Moliueux's wiſhes. However, the good woman of the houſe having now obtained her confidence, took every opportunity of expatiating on her conduct, which ſhe termed filly in the extreme; and the earneſtneſs with which ſhe perpetually purſued the ſubject, had at laſt ſome weight with Mrs. Baddeley, who began now to give it a conſideration. She enjoined her landlady however, not to communicate her ſentiments to me, whoſe diſpleaſure ſhe feared to incur.

His Lordſhip came of courſe the next day and preſſed for an anſwer, which

he

he received in the negative. But this did not abate his fervor; on the contrary, he launched out into the moſt ſoft and tender expreſſions, determining to try the force of eloquence. Reſolved to take no denial, he met her repeated refuſals with calmneſs, and flattered himſelf he ſhould ſucceed by perſeverance. He propoſed ſending for his attorney to draw up the ſettlement. This was not ſuffered. He then gave her his note of hand payable to her, one month after date, for 350l. and preſented it to her, and left her, with ſaying he would return in the evening and bring his attorney with him. This note I took to Mr. Drummond, at Charing Croſs, and he was polite enough to caſh it in Mrs. Baddeley's name,

who

who drew for it in ſmall ſums as ſhe had occaſion. His Lordſhip has taken ſome pains to contradict this, but Mr. Drummond's books will prove the truth of it.

He returned in the evening, but without his attorney, who would follow him, he ſaid, in two hours. Finding Mrs. Baddeley very much dejected, he tenderly inquired the cauſe of it, and ſhe candidly confeſſed that his Lordſhip's expreſſions brought to her remembrance the many endearing terms ſhe had once heard from the lips of her dear Gaby, (now Lord Coleraine) whoſe impreſſion ſhe found it the greateſt difficulty to eraſe from her heart. Whenever this ſubject occurred, ſhe underwent, ſhe ſaid, a ſpecies

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of diſtraction, and often indulged a profound melancholy in contemplating his picture which hung over the ſopha, where they often ſat, and paſſed hours in the full enjoyment of a reciprocity of affection. Her mind was now oppreſſed with the pungent recollection of that loſt happineſs ſhe was once no ſtranger to; and the weight of it being too great for her to ſupport in ſilence within herſelf, it ended itſelf in a flood of tears. His Lordſhip, on his knees, implored her to baniſh from her mind, objects which had ſo inimical an influence on her peace, and endeavour to attend to thoſe which held out a more pleaſing alternative, and which his love and affection ſhould be ſtrenuouſly employed to procure her.

She

She assured him the more he ſpoke in that ſtyle, the more ſhe was affected, it exciting emotions and renewing thoſe feelings for her Gaby, who was once ſo much her delight, that his even abandoning her to diſtreſs, could not eradicate from her breaſt. His Lordſhip might ſee from this, ſhe ſaid, that was ſhe even prevailed upon to give him her perſon, ſhe could not accompany it with her heart.

Whilſt his Lordſhip was thus pleading for his paſſion, I came in to Mrs. Baddeley on a viſit: this was in autumn 1769. Being informed ſhe was at home, I went up ſtairs, but could gain no admiſſion into the dining room, as the door

was faſtened. Apprehenſive that ſhe might have recourſe a ſecond time to laudanum, as no anſwer was made to my call, and as the ſervant did not ſay any perſon was with her, I inſiſted on a man being ſent for, to force the door. This menace alarmed his Lordſhip within, he opened the door ſuddenly, and ruſhed forth with ſuch impetuoſity, ruſhing by me as I waited for admittance, that we nearly eſcaped a fall down the ſtairs.

Seeing Mrs. Baddeley in tears, I inquired the cauſe, and alſo who the perſon was that acted with ſo much rudeneſs, telling her at the ſame time that her conduct did not appear conſiſtent with her promiſes. After apologiſing for

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the door being locked, which Mrs. Baddeley ſaid ſhe would explain, ſhe recounted to me the particulars, as before related. Having heard her out, I remonſtrated on the impropriety of her behaviour, and highly cenſured her for liſtening to any terms from Lord Molineux. She attended to me with patience, and acknowledged the juſtice of my ſuggeſtions, ſo as to determine her in a rejection of his Lordſhip's propoſals for the preſent. Before I left her, Lord Molineux returned, attended by the diſſector of his patrimony, his attorney, with the deeds of ſettlement. When the door was opened to him, Mrs. Baddeley was juſt entering from the garden; the woman of the houſe ſhewed his Lordſhip

into the parlour, where I and Mrs. Baddeley followed him. She there told him that as ſhe had not the command of her affections, ſhe was determined not to diſpoſe of her perſon, and therefore hoped he would excuſe her peremptorily declining the propoſed ſettlement; alledging that her own peace, and the influence of her friend (alluding to me) whom he ſaw preſent, were objects of dearer concern to her than any conſideration his Lordſhip had it in his power to offer. She thanked him for the favour he had been pleaſed to beſtow on her the day before, and hoped that her preſent determination would be attributed to its true motive, not diſreſpect to his Lordſhip, but merely as ſhe had ſtated it. Lord

Moli-

Molineux in profound ſilence made her a low bow, and, on retiring, aſſured her, that in his opinion, the ſmall matter which ſhe was pleaſed to call a favour, was but an earneſt of what he wiſhed to do for her in future.

After this peremptory refuſal on the part of Mrs. Baddeley, his Lordſhip ſeeing that future endeavours would be fruitleſs, deſiſted from making any further attempts. As his conduct therefore afterwards had no relation to Mrs. Baddeley, the reader will agree with me, that it ſhould be relinquiſhed for the preſent, to make room for one who filled a more intereſting place among the train of her followers.

My houſe in St. James's Place being now ready for our reception, Mrs. Badeley removed there, after giving an anſwer to ſeveral ſuitors who made her ſimilar propoſals to thoſe made by Lord Molineux. Her riſing merit at the Theatre entitling her to an advance of ſalary, the manager of Drury Lane added 6l. a week to her former eight, which, with the 12l. ſhe received at Ranelagh, would have enabled her to keep an elegant carriage, with a proper ſet of ſervants, and make an appearance ſuitable to the ſame. She now ſolemnly promiſed to regulate her conduct according to the plan I laid down for her, and to ſacrifice every temptation which love or gallantry might throw in her way, in order to prevent

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the effects of future disappointments or embarrassments.

As soon as she was settled with me, Lord Pigot, who afterwards lost his life in the East Indies, paid her a visit. His Lordship being an elderly man, assumed all the gravity of a monitor, and in a very friendly way proffered Mrs. Baddeley his advice for the regulation of her future conduct, adding, that she might command all the service in his power, offered her as the result of pure esteem and friendship. Under this idea, his visits were daily, and the familiarity that subsisted between him and us, gave him such weight with us, that no one was admitted but such as he and I approved.

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He preſented Mrs. Baddeley with many tokens of his eſteem, which I conſidered as teſtimonies of his friendſhip, ſeemingly increaſing in its fervour daily; and his aſſiduity in beſtowing his advice to the fair object of it, was, in my opinion, a farther teſt of its warmth. I could not, however, but obſerve at laſt, that he was not ſo well pleaſed when a third perſon was preſent, and when alone with Mrs. Baddeley, he would betray an unuſual embarraſſment, by thoſe internal emotions, that were viſible in his countenance. At length he took an opportunity, one day when he was alone with her, to ſay, that he felt more for her than mere friendſhip and eſteem; that his ſentiments were actuated by an attachment

of

ſought her to relieve by a reciprocal ſenſation; in fact, he declared his paſſion for her was not ſhort of love.

Mrs. Baddeley, ſurpriſed at a declaration ſhe ſo little expected, requeſted his Lordſhip might not deceive himſelf by indulging the leaſt hope that he would ever gain that intereſt in her affections which could be favourable to his inclinations; but at the ſame time expreſſed the high value ſhe ſet upon the honour of his friendſhip, which nothing could induce her to forfeit but his Lordſhip's perſeverance in his preſent declarations.

At this very juncture Mrs. Baddeley's benefit being fixed on, Mr. Garrick ſent her word of it. The meſſenger arrived juſt as tea was ſerving up, when Lord Pigot was preſent. His Lordſhip immediately engaged the firſt box, and preſented Mrs. Baddeley with a hundred pounds on the occaſion. And when the piece to be performed was generally known, numbers of perſons who were denied admittance at our houſe before, came now to order tickets, and engaged boxes, places, &c. for Mrs. Baddeley's night.

Among theſe was a Mr. Franco, a Jew merchant, of Fenchurch-ſtreet, who engaged places for eight in one box,

and

and very politely paid 50l. for the ſame. He then called for pen, ink, and paper, and wrote a long affecting epiſtle to Mrs. Baddeley, filled with profeſſions of love, and encloſing a twenty-pound bank note, requeſting the honour of her accepting it; and alſo intimating, that he would wait upon her at ten o'clock next morning. He came according to his appointment, and in attempting to ruſh into the parlour, where ſome company were at breakfaſt, without ſending in his name, the footman took him by the ſhoulder, and, as he was a little man, puſhed him into the ſtreet with eaſe, and ſhut the door upon him.

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One may remark here, how apt ſervants are to catch the manners of thoſe with whom they live, and that the old proverb, "Like maſter like man," is often verified. If they are in the ſervice of quiet, orderly people, they will behave with decorum; if under characters of a reverſe diſpoſition, they will be inſolent and overbearing. This man knew the errand on which Mr. Franco came, and ſenſible his viſit would not be acceptable to his miſtreſs, was ready enough to treat him with diſreſpect.

Sir Thomas Mills, and Mr. Mayne the banker, who came for tickets alſo, were of the party at breakfaſt with us; and on the diſcomfiture of the little

gentle-

gentleman, who was disappointed in his speculations, the whole company, who saw him reeled into the street, burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, which took some time before they were able to suppress it. The purchase of tickets was not the only occasion of the visit of these gentlemen, but an invitation to Sir Thomas Mills' to dinner, where some of the first people of distinction were that day to dine. The invitation was accepted; we were entertained with a concert, after which cards were introduced; which I mention, for the opportunity of saying, that as we played for ten guineas a game, Mrs. Baddeley won 300l. and I won 80l. This invitation

brought on many others, but without any material occurrence.

Mrs. Baddeley's benefit coming on, under the favourable circumſtances of ſo many people of rank and diſtinction patroniſing her, all the boxes were engaged, and many of them at a price which ſeemed more like a magnificent preſent than a conſideration for the ſeats. She was at this time engaged at Ranelagh, where Lord Palmerſton ſaw her, and invited himſelf to tea, requeſting to be admitted among the circle of her friends, and offering his ſervice, where he could be of uſe to her. His Lordſhip was then one of the Lords of the Admiralty,

Admiralty, and Mrs. Baddeley, who was led on all occaſions to do good where it was in her power, being deſirous to ſerve a friend in the navy, availed herſelf of this offer, to get him promoted from the rank of lieutenant, to that of maſter and commander. His Lordſhip very politely replied, it would be conferring an obligation on himſelf; that the matter reſted, indeed, with Lord Sandwich, but that he would ſpeak to him on the ſubject. Lord Palmerſton, blind, as many others are to their own imperfections, though he had an impediment in his ſpeech, was very fond of reading to others, and requeſted permiſſion of Mrs. Baddeley, to come occaſionally and read to her. His

requeſt was complied with, and being with her one evening for the purpoſe, he took up a volume of Shenſtone's poems, in which Hamlet's ſoliloquy is thus traveſtied, "To print, or not to print? That is the queſtion," His Lordſhip's difficulty in articulating the word *pri..nt* ſtruck the company preſent, who were many, with different ideas, but they all burſt into an involuntary fit of laughter. This ſo increaſed his Lordſhip's difficulty, that he was totally deprived of utterance, which occaſioned ſo many extraordinary and ſinguiar diſtortions of his features, that kept up the laugh to ſuch a degree of violence, as obliged us to withdraw for a moment's relaxation. His Lordſhip remained

thus

thus convulsed for five minutes, and nothing would relieve him but a glass of water. Reading, for this evening, was of course suspended; he took what passed in good humour, and invited us to take chocolate with him next morning, when he hoped to give us an answer respecting his application to Lord Sandwich.

This request of Mrs. Baddeley's gave his Lordship an opportunity of recommending himself to her favour, and pursuing those views he had in contemplation, but which he was very awkward in communicating. His visits were frequent, but to little effect. One day Mrs. Baddeley was indulging her

ſervants, in the Chriſtmas holidays, with the amuſements of a Camera Obſcura, vulgarly called the Gallanty Show, which men carry about the ſtreets in order to gain a livelihood The exhibition was to be in the parlour, of courſe the room was darkened, and a large ſheet faſtened up againſt the wall.—Lord March, now Duke of Queenſberry, at this inſtant rapped at the door, to whom we were denied; but, Lord Palmerſton, who came juſt after, though the footman ſaid we were not at home, hearing a laugh in the parlour, puſhed forward; but, before he opened the door, we had even extinguiſhed the light in the man's lanthorn, ſo as to be totally in the dark, that we might not be

ſeen.

ſeen. This did not interrupt his Lordſhip; he came bolt in, tumbled right over the box and the barrel organ, which he overſet, and fell all along upon the floor. His Lordſhip, having broke his ſhins, cried out vociferouſly; and having deſtroyed the ſhow-box, the owner lamented his misfortune with "Oh, mon "Dieu!—Me be ruined!—Ma ma-"chine eſt caſſé!"—Lights were brought in, and the ridiculous ſcene that preſented itſelf to his Lordſhip, who was quite at a loſs to know the cauſe of his diſaſter, added to his embarraſſment. He good-naturedly, however, requeſted that no apologies might be made, alledging that the fault was his; gave the man two guineas for the injury he had

ſuſtained,

ſuſtained, and finding us deſirous of retiring, very politely took his leave and withdrew.

Next morning Lord March called again, with a deſign to invite us to dinner. He was ſhewn into the parlour, but obſerving a maid ſervant going up the ſtairs, he purſued her, and treating her with a degree of freedom which ſhe thought rude and unbecoming, the girl turned about and puſhed him down the whole flight. Not ſatisfied with this, ſhe wreaked her vengeance by throwing after him the contents of a pail ſhe had in her hand, which fell upon his Lordſhip's cloaths and ribband; for he has the Order of the Thiſtle. The

noiſe

noiſe alarmed us; we ran out to ſee what was the matter, and beheld his Lordſhip, with all the appendages of his perſon, in a ſituation truly laughable and ridiculous. We called our ſervants however, to diſengage him from the effects of this diſaſter, and prevent him from the neceſſity of ſending home for other cloaths.

Matters being accommodated by the concurrence of his Lordſhip's good temper, and the endeavours of the family, he prevailed on us to dine with him that day, and prior to dinner, to take an airing in Hyde Park, where he promiſed to meet and accompany us.

Whilſt

Whilſt we were airing in the Park, a gentleman preſented a letter to Mrs. Baddeley, ſaying, as he was commiſſioned to deliver it himſelf, he followed her to Hyde Park, having learned from her ſervants, in St. James's Place, that he would find her there. The letter was from his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, and the contents of it are as follow:

" Dear Madam,

" Your perſon and charms have
" ſo far attracted my adoration, that I
" ſolicit the honour of being permitted
" to pay you a viſit to tea this evening;

" the

" the honour of your anſwer, with com-
" pliance, will ever be eſteemed by,

" Dear Madam,

" Your conſtant admirer,

" Northumberland."

" *Northumberland Houſe,*

" *Friday Morning.*"

Mrs. Baddeley returned a verbal anſwer to this effect, that " A prior en-
" gagement precluded her the honour
" intended by his Grace; otherwiſe,
" among the reſt of her friends, his
" Grace's company would be accept-
" able."

On our return from Lord March's after dinner, we found Mr. John Han-

ger

ger waiting for us. On being told this, Mrs. Baddeley went up ſtairs, and I went into the parlour to him. He made an apology for the liberty he had taken in waiting on us, and flattered himſelf he ſhould be pardoned for his intruſion, if he was permitted to explain. I told him no explanation could atone for his behaviour to Mrs. Baddeley: ſhe had nearly forgot his ill treatment of her, and wiſhed not to renew the recollection of it. He begged permiſſion to ſee her, and on being refuſed, his eyes, departing from the ſteadineſs of manhood, played the woman; in ſhort, he cried much, repeatedly exclaiming that he was a miſerable and wretched man; that his life was a burden to him; that

he

he was a ſtranger to reſt both day and night, and was determined, if Mrs. Baddeley would not be reconciled to him, that he would put an end to his exiſtence. Mrs. Baddeley, who liſtened at the door, could no longer reſiſt her inclinations to ſpeak to him herſelf. She came into the parlour, and told him, in becoming terms, that of all men in the world he had the leaſt right to give her this trouble; and wondered, after his treatment of her, how he could preſume to come where ſhe was, more particularly into the houſe of her friend, to whom ſhe was indebted for relief, when he abandoned her to diſtreſs. After deſerting her, as an object unworthy of his care, attention, or notice,

ſhe was at a loſs to know why he ſhould alter his ſentiments now, unleſs it was to have it in his power to act the ſame cruel ſcene over again, and have a future opportunity of laughing at her credulity, and the ſucceſs of his own artifice. He wept bitterly at this reproach, begged and prayed to be heard; fell on his knees, and uttered the moſt fervent expreſſions of contrition for the impropriety of his conduct. His perſeverance at laſt produced ſome emotions in Mrs. Baddeley, which her ſenſibility was not able to ſuppreſs, and her firmneſs gave way. He proteſted and vowed that he would ſtudy to atone for his paſt conduct, and ſolicited that, if ſhe would not receive

him

him on other terms, ſhe would permit him to viſit her as a *friend* only, and give him leave occaſionally to inquire how ſhe did. His arguments prevailing, they continued together for ſeveral hours; which time was ſpent in tears on both ſides. He, in the end, attained her permiſſion to viſit her as a friend; and, ſo far re-introduced, he haunted the houſe eternally, and attended at every rehearſal and play where ſhe was preſent. And this attention, I am perſuaded, was more the effect of pride than affection: for the notice of Mrs. Baddeley was at that day ſufficient to give credit and *éclat* to a man of the *ton*. This was one reaſon, among others, that induced men of the firſt

rank and character to court her company as they did.

The intereſt which Mrs. Baddeley had in her Gaby's happineſs, had not wholly ceaſed. Her love for him began to revive; and though for a time ſhe ſtruggled to ſuppreſs the influence of her affections in his favour, yet the latent ſpark ſoon glowed again, and Mr. Hanger became re-poſſeſſed of that aſcendency which he was accuſtomed to have in her thoughts and eſteem.

During the progreſs of this her relapſe to wretchedneſs, I uſed every argument experience and propriety could ſuggeſt to me, to ſave Mrs. Baddeley from

from her impending fate, and prevent her falling a ſacrifice to the artifices of a man who was capable of acting as Mr. Hanger had: but my remonſtrances were ineffectual; for though Mrs. Baddeley made ſome efforts, at my inſtigation, to reject him, yet her eaſy and credulous heart was too much wrapped up in him, to conſult her own happineſs.

Seeing no other mode of eſtranging her from Mr. Hanger, I availed myſelf of the houſe being mine, having defrayed every expence attending it, and aſſured Mrs. Baddeley that I would not ſuffer my eſteem for her to become ſubſervient to the abuſe and perverſion

of my friendly intentions, and therefore asserted my right of insisting that Mr. Hanger's visits should be discontinued there.

Embarrassed and perplexed between the contending passions of love and friendship, Mrs. Baddeley was undetermined. During this time, a volume of letters passed between them.

Whilst Mrs. Baddeley's resolution was thus fluctuating between gratitude and folly, or rather a tender and undisguised passion, Lord Melbourne took every opportunity to come forward and prove himself one of her admirers. This gentleman was about twenty-one years of age,

age, and had been married about ten months to a very amiable woman. For a length of time he uſed every means to engage her attention at Ranelagh; but finding that an improper place for an interview, at leaſt ſuch a one as he wiſhed, he applied to a friend, in confidence, to make her, in his name, an offer of ſhare of his fortune, in exchange for the poſſeſſion of her heart. This friend brought her a letter, incloſing a bill for 300l. which he very politely preſſed her acceptance of, as a *bagatelle*, and to conſider it only as a proof of his eſteem, and that liberality which his affection for her would ſtudy to convince her of. Mrs. Baddeley did not refuſe the preſent; but, knowing

that

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that his Lordſhip was married to a lady of great perſonal and acquired accompliſhments, who merited all his love and attention, ſhe recommended it to him to pay that regard to his domeſtic happineſs, which the partner of it had every title to, and give over any thoughts of expecting ſucceſs with her, whoſe ſtate of mind and diſpoſition put it out of her power to meet his Lordſhip's wiſhes.

This anſwer had no effect with him; his paſſion was rather increaſed than abated, and his liberality kept pace with it. During this time, Mr. Hanger became ſo troubleſome, notwithſtanding all my urging Mrs. Baddeley to diſcourage him, that I came to a reſolution

to

to quit St. James's Place, and leave her to follow her own inclinations. This I partly did, by taking a houſe in the King's Road, Chelſea. At this ſhe became almoſt inconſolable, proteſted ſhe was not able to bear a ſeparation from me, and, on condition that I would not think of it, offered to conform to my wiſhes; adding, that whatever proſperous ſituation ſhe might be in, ſhe would ſhare what ſhe had with me, as ſhe was indebted to me for her happineſs; and her life, without my eſteem and company, would be intolerable. In a word, ſhe faithfully promiſed to relinquiſh every thought of Mr. Hanger, or any other perſon of whom I did not approve.

One day, however, when I was abſent from my new houſe, Lord Melbourne got admittance in St. James's. Place, to drink tea with her. On my return, I found them together. She came out to me; and, on my remonſtrating with her on the impropriety of her encouraging any gentleman's viſits, his Lordſhip, who overheard me, and fearing an attack upon him perſonally, threw up the parlour window, and precipitately leaped out. Being too much in a hurry to take ſufficient precaution about a ſafe landing-place, he fell down the area; however, receiving no material hurt, he ſcrambled up again, and took to his heels. His Lordſhip, however, as an atonement for his intruſion,

left

left bank-notes on the parlour table to the amount of two hundred pounds.

Next morning his Lordſhip ſent a letter, which will be found at the end of this volume, apologizing for his precipitate retreat, and requeſting an interview in Henry the VIIth's chapel, in Weſtminſter Abbey, as he had ſomething of importance to communicate. Mrs. Baddeley conſulted with me on this occaſion, and my advice was, to take no notice of the letter; but ſhe was rather reſolute, ſaying ſhe was anxious to hear what he had to communicate, particularly as it could be attended with no harm in ſo public a place. Finding her determined to go, I told her I would

accom-

accompany her, and remonſtrate with his Lordſhip on the impropriety of his conduct. The coach was ordered: we ſet out; and Lord Melbourne received us in the poets corner. We viewed the wax-work, and walked round the inner part of the Abbey ſeveral times. At laſt his Lordſhip requeſted Mrs. Baddeley's private ear for three minutes; which ſhe refuſed, on the plea of my not permitting it. I then took an opportunity of repreſenting to his Lordſhip the impropriety of his viſits: he replied, they were of the moſt friendly nature, and had nothing for their object, but a wiſh to be of ſervice to her, and to have the occaſional enjoyment of her company among her other friends.

"Even admitting, my Lord," ſays I,

"that

" that your visits are no other than
" friendly, it is incumbent on your
" Lordship to refrain from them, that
" you may not give pain to that amiable
" woman your Lady." He said, his respect and affection for his Lady were fixed and immoveable; and he would not, on any account, attempt to hurt her peace of mind; it was far from his intentions: but as to denying his visits to Mrs. Baddeley, it was to no purpose; he must and would see her, even at the risque of his life. He had the highest regard for her, lamented the fatigues to which her profession exposed her; and should be happy to enable her to quit that profession, by empowering her to live in an easier sphere of life, than either a Theatre,

Ranelagh, or any public place of entertainment, would admit of.

Mrs. Baddeley, whoſe inclination led her to quit the fatigues of a public life, liſtened to his Lordſhip's propoſal, and encouraged him to repeat his entreaties to me, who ſhowed ſome diſpleaſure on the occaſion. An altercation then ſucceeded between me and his Lordſhip, on the leads of the Abbey, for ſome time uninterrupted; for there he dragged us as the moſt retired place. He declared that he felt himſelf ſo much obliged to Mrs. Baddeley for her goodneſs in liſtening to what he had to offer, and on the reliance ſhe put on his ſincerity, that he would ſpend his whole fortune, if neceſ-

ſary,

ſary, to defend and protect her; and turning to her, preſented her with notes, to the amount of three hundred pounds. In a word, I was in ſome meaſure prevailed with, and his Lordſhip's viſits were permitted at our houſe.

Theſe unexpected ſums of money ſerved only to encourage Mrs. Baddeley's extravagance; for, though ſhe had many good qualities, ſhe had a natural turn for ſpending money profuſely. Having almoſt the command of his Lordſhip's purſe, ſhe began to launch out into expences ſhe had reſtrained before. She went to Mr. Tomkins the Jeweller, in Maiden-Lane, Covent-Garden, and purchaſed a pair of diamond

ear-rings, ten diamond pins at twenty pounds each, nine rings, with plate, &c. &c. to the amount of nine hundred and twenty pounds. Mr. Tomkins had a diamond necklace, which he valued at four hundred and fifty pounds: this Mrs. Baddeley ſet her mind on being miſtreſs of alſo, though ſhe had not money to pay for it. He conſented, however, to let her have it, if I would give him my note for the money. With many entreaties ſhe prevailed on me to do it; I gave him my note, and it was paid when it became due.

On Lord Melbourne's next viſit to Mrs. Baddeley, he praiſed the elegance and magnificence of the necklace, which he obſerved was not eſſential to add to

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the beauty of the wearer. He thought it a cheap purchaſe, ſaying, having laid out his wife's whole fortune to the amount of thirty thouſand pounds on the day of marriage, he muſt be ſome little judge of the value of diamonds.

Mr. Hanger, who ſtill continued his viſits, was one day told that they could not be received in future: at this he was almoſt in a fit of deſperation, and ſaid he was ſurely ſupplanted by ſome rival: after running on in this ſtrain for ſome time, he informed us that he was a ruined man, for that a run of ill luck at Almack's, the night before, had ſtripped him of all his caſh. Mrs. Baddeley felt for him, and, notwithſtanding her determi-

nation not to ſee him, gave him ſome bank notes to the amount of two hundred pounds and upwards, for which he thanked her, but never repaid her.

Lord Melbourne, at his next viſit, brought me my promiſſory note of hand, for four hundred and fifty pounds, which I had given to Mr. Tomkins, he having called on the Jeweller, and paid the money for it. He alſo requeſted Mrs. Baddeley would make him acquainted with what ſhe might fancy in that way, and he would take care ſhe ſhould have it. As he came now purpoſely to bring me my note, he excuſed himſelf for leaving us with ſo much abruptneſs, being in haſte, he ſaid, to attend his dear Betſy to

the

the play, (this being the name by which he always called his wife) but that he would ſee us again the next day, when he hoped to find his amiable Mrs. Baddeley well.

Mrs. Baddeley, on receiving theſe favours at his Lordſhip's hands, expreſſed the higheſt ſenſe of gratitude and eſteem for his noble and liberal conduct to her, profeſſing herſelf more indebted to his bounty than to any man living.

His Lordſhip having paid us a viſit at Chelſea; after admiring the taſte and elegance of the houſe and furniture, remarked that the ſituation was favourable to prevent his being noticed, whenever he was diſpoſed to wait on us. He

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propoſed to Mrs. Baddeley to ride out daily for the good of her health, bought her a cream-coloured mare, which coſt him ſixty pounds, and preſented me with a fine hunter which coſt him fifty pounds.

We were next honoured with a viſit from the Right Honourable Charles James Fox; but, as the profeſſions he made, were neither deſirable nor acceptable, he was very coolly received. He took offence at it, and his reſentment for Mrs. Baddeley's behaviour ſhall not paſs unnoticed.

Mrs. Baddeley now paid all due attention to her profeſſional engagements: whenever ſhe paſſed through the room

at

at Ranelagh, ſhe attracted the notice of every eye, and the admiration of every tongue; but this exceſs of praiſe, though it might flatter the pride and vanity of any woman, did not affect her ſo as to occaſion any inattention in her to that propriety of conduct which good-breeding dictates. Lord Melbourne, and his Grace of Ancaſter, the huſband of the preſent Ducheſs, were among the foremoſt who contended for her notice. The Duke's application met with a repulſe, which he did not ſeem to like; for, on making his propoſals, and begging her to conſider of them by the next day, ſhe very laconically told him ſhe ſhould not.

One evening, when we were drinking tea in the great room at Ranelagh, poor Gaby came up, and begged a diſh with us, more from oſtentation than any other motive, that he might convince the town he was ſtill in Mrs. Baddeley's good graces. She prudently, however, refuſed to countenance him in ſo public a piace, and requeſted he would leave us, which with ſome reluctance he did.

Lord Melbourne, who was there the ſame evening and obſerved Mr. Hanger with us, noticed it with diſpleaſure, but had no opportunity of expreſſing his ſentiments at that place; but on our return home, we found his Lordſhip there before

fore us. He told Mrs. Baddeley he had her intereſt too much at heart, not to acquaint her that Mr. Hanger's attention to her was noticed by all her friends; that it made him wretched, to ſee a man, who had treated her with ſuch ingratitude, accoſt her, and reaſoned very properly on her ſubmitting to hear any thing from him. Mrs. Baddeley declared that ſhe had not the leaſt partiality for him, and was determined for the future to treat him as his behaviour deſerved. This declaration appeaſed his Lordſhip; and he promiſed, upon his honour, that if ſhe would give up this man, who had endangered her life by his ingratitude and cruelty, he would continue to be her benefactor and friend through life.

I joined in this part of his Lordſhip's ſentiments, and promiſed he ſhould neither be received, nor countenanced in my houſe; nor, if I could help it, where Mrs. Baddeley was. His Lordſhip then took his leave, and, ſaying Mrs. Baddeley muſt be in want of caſh, left on the table two hundred pounds.

Lord Melbourne's liberality was not only noble in itſelf, but his manner of conferring a favour ever enhanced its value. Mrs. Baddeley could not but eſteem ſo generous a friend, nor could I avoid uniting in his ſentiments. The terms on which his Lordſhip beſtowed all theſe favours, did honour to his diſintereſtedneſs.

On the receipt of this money, Mrs. Baddeley began to conſider how ſhe ſhould lay it out. The carriage was ordered next morning, to take her to a rehearſal at the Theatre; but in the way ſhe called at Mr. King's, the mercer, in King-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, and purchaſed ſilk to the amount of one hundred and twenty pounds, which ſhe inſtantly paid for. We then proceeded to the green-room, where Mr. Baddeley deſired to ſpeak with me. He informed me he had paſſed the bond his wife had given him, to a Mr. Freeman, a woollen-draper, in Gracechurch-ſtreet, and that the firſt payment of eighty pounds was due upon it. I told him I would call and pay it, which I did the next day.

This was part of Mr. Baddeley's debts, which his wife bound herſelf to pay on their ſeparation, as I before mentioned.

On our return home, we found that Lord Milton's ſon, Mr. John Damer, had called and left a note, the purport of which was relative to a report he had heard at Almack's the night before, and that he would wait on us the next day at twelve. Lord Palmerſton alſo called the ſame evening, to acquaint us with his non-ſucceſs with Lord Sandwich, in his application for Mrs. Baddeley's friend; for which he expreſſed himſelf truly ſorry. His Lordſhip propoſed reading to us again, and took up a volume of Dodſley's Poems for that purpoſe;

poſe; but, recollecting the circumſtances attending his laſt performance in that way, I ſmiled, and Mrs. Baddeley did the ſame. His Lordſhip, little conceiving what we ſmiled at, expreſſed a wiſh to know it, that he might join us in our mirth. This, however, put the reading off; and after ſupper he took his leave.

The next morning Dr. Arne called on us, to inſtruct Mrs. Baddeley in a new piece that was ſhortly to be performed. After ſome time the converſation turned on a famous female fortune-teller, who was deaf and dumb, but who wrote the fortune of any perſon, during the time ſhe was converſing with them. Lord Palmerſton, who came in, in the interim,

wiſhed to be one of the party to go and conſult her. Dr. Arne's leſſons were of courſe deferred, the coach was ordered, and Dr. Arne and his Lordſhip accompanied us to Leman-ſtreet, Goodman's-Fields, to hear what this good propheteſs would have to ſay. When we came to her houſe, we found a well-dreſſed woman, apparently deaf and dumb, who wrote on a ſlate that her fee was half-a-guinea each, and requeſted to know which of us was firſt deſirous of learning our fortune. I was conducted forward; and this fortune-teller ſurpriſed us much. She mentioned ſeveral things which had occurred in the courſe of my life, and we therefore expected ſhe could tell what was to come. In ſpeaking of

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley, ſhe ſaid her father would ſhortly die, and her prediction was fulfilled; for he died at Windſor, a few days afterwards, and was interred at St. Margaret's, Weſtminſter, at her expence: his funeral coſt her 40l. It is but juſtice to the ſenſibility and feelings of Mrs. Baddeley, in this place, to ſay, that ſhe ever ſhowed the higheſt affection and attention to her parents, and from this time gave her mother three guineas a week during her life. I muſt alſo mention here another inſtance of her filial affection. Her father was, as I have ſaid before, Serjeant-trumpeter to the King, and being once puſhed hard for money, he had no reſource to raiſe it, but by applying to a pawnbroker, in the Strand,

and pledging the appendages of his office, viz. his ſilver collar of SS. a ſilver mace, and three ſilver trumpets. Receiving any thing in pawn belonging to his Majeſty, is illegal, and attended with a penalty; but the perſon to whom the application was made, being perſonally acquainted with Mr. Snow, conſented to take theſe articles for the loan of the ſum he wanted. Mr. Snow was ſome time afterwards called upon to attend in his place at Windſor, during an inſtallation, and he was then unable to redeem his regalia. He applied to the pawnbroker, to indulge him with the uſe of them for that day, offering him a premium for the ſame, and alſo to pay the expence of a perſon to come

and

and attend the inſtallation, to whom the property ſhould be returned, as ſoon as the ceremony was over; but he could not ſucceed, nor would the pawnbroker's humanity ſtep forth upon this occaſion, though the poor man's bread and character were at ſtake. In this ſituation, he could only have recourſe to his daughter, who then lived in Dean-ſtreet; and it happened at that period when ſhe was herſelf in the greateſt diſtreſs, when ſhe was impoveriſhed, and ſick, and abandoned to want, as I have related it, by the deſertion of Mr. Hanger. At this time I had relieved her from her difficulties; and, being made acquainted with Mr. Snow's embarraſſment, I enabled her

to

to relieve him alſo; and I muſt ſay that, on this occaſion, ſhe expreſſed a greater ſenſibility of gratitude to me than at any other time when I endeavoured to be of uſe to her.—But to reſume my narrative.

On our return from the Fortune-teller's, we found Mr. Damer waiting for us. He wiſhed to communicate the ſubſtance of a report which Gaby had circulated, of the preference he ſtill held in Mrs. Baddeley's favour, and that all endeavours to ſupplant him there were ineffectual; that the aſcendancy he had over her inſured him a permanence of her attachment, which no temptation could alienate; that ſhe re-

jected

jected every propoſal made to her by others, and that his dictates were the ſole guide of her actions; that Lord Melbourne had been trying what he could do; but that, on his approach, he leaped out of the parlour-window; and he wiſhed the circumſtance was as public as it was notorious. Mr. Damer ſaid he could not be privy to expreſſions ſo injurious to Mrs. Baddeley's character, conſiſtent with the reſpect he had for her, without making her acquainted with it. This matter came afterwards to Lord Melbourne's ear; the reſult of which ſhall be mentioned hereafter.

Soon after the death of her father, Mrs. Baddeley applied by letter to Lord Hertford,

Hertford, then Lord Chamberlain, in behalf of her mother, who was left a widow, in the moſt diſtreſſed circumſtances; and begged leave to wait on his Lordſhip, to explain herſelf more fully. His Lordſhip returned an anſwer in his own hand-writing, of which the following is a copy.

"Lord Hertford's compliments to "Mrs. Baddeley, is extremely ſorry to "hear of the death of her father; will "be happy to ſee Mrs. Baddeley to-"morrow morning, in Groſvenor-ſtreet, "to receive her communications. If "he can be of ſervice to the widow, "ſhe may command him.

"*Groſvenor-ſtreet.*"

We

We waited on his Lordſhip next morning, and were politely received. Mrs. Baddeley repreſented the deſtitute ſtate of her mother, ſince her father's death, in very affecting terms, till tears ſtopped her utterance. I then mentioned the particulars of her ſituation, and urged every matter that I thought would have weight, in her behalf. Lord Hertford paid particular attention, called for chocolate, and promiſed to deviſe ſomething for the advantage of Mrs. Snow. Soon after, he ſent Mrs. Baddeley word, that a trumpeter's place was vacant, and if Mrs. Snow could procure any one to perform the duties of it, the emoluments ſhould be hers. We told his Lordſhip, that we believed

Mr.

Mr. Yates, the dancing-master, would undertake it; but, on asking him the question, he replied, he should be glad to purchase the place, but as to performing the duty for another, he could not think of it. An agreement, therefore, was made between him and Mrs. Baddeley, for the purchase; and he agreed to give her four hundred pounds on the appointment. She then wrote to Lord Hertford, as follows:

"My Lord,

"Mr. Yates has agreed to perform "the duty of the employment, in fa- "vour of my mother; I requeſt, there- "fore, your Lordſhip will pleaſe to "appoint

"appoint him, agreeable to your kind
"promiſes; and I remain, with thanks,

"My Lord,

"Your reſpectful, obliged

"humble ſervant,

"Sophia Baddeley."

To which ſhe received a polite anſwer, with a promiſe of compliance. Mr. Yates's name was immediately entered on Lord Hertford's liſt; and, on receiving his warrant, he paid the four hundred pounds to Mrs. Snow.

The Serjeant-trumpeter's place being not yet diſpoſed of, Mrs. Baddeley made an attempt to procure it for her brother,

who was then a trumpeter to the houſe-hold; but, as ſhe had ſo lately troubled Lord Hertford, ſhe did not think proper to apply to him again, particularly as he had refuſed Mr. Snow, who applied for it as an hereditary right: ſhe determined therefore to apply to the Duke of Gloceſter in his behalf, and wrote him the following letter:

"Mrs. Baddeley preſents her reſpect-
"ful compliments to his Royal High-
"neſs the Duke of Gloceſter, begging
"the honour of an interview, having
"ſomething of conſequence to com-
"municate.

"*Grafton-ſtreet*,
"*Tueſday morning*."

This

This letter was taken by her footman, and delivered to Mr. Adams, one of his Highneſs's pages, the Duke being not at home; and Mr. Adams ſent his compliments back to Mrs. Baddeley, ſaying ſhe might rely upon its being delivered. At five o'clock the ſame afternoon, Mr. Adams waited on her, and told her that he had delivered her letter to his Royal Highneſs, who would have written an anſwer, but was then going to dinner; however, he returned his reſpectful compliments, and would be glad to ſee her at Gloceſter-houſe, next morning, at eleven. "I ſhall be "in waiting," ſaid Mr. Adams "and, "if you will pleaſe to inquire for me, "I will introduce you." Accordingly

we dreſſed ourſelves in the beſt manner (for ſhe begged me to go with her), and, when we reached Gloceſter-houſe, we inquired for Mr. Adams, who handed us from the carriage, and ſhowed us into an elegant apartment, where we waited till his Highneſs was made acquainted with our being there. We were then conducted to him; and he handed Mrs. Baddeley a chair to ſit down. She begged his Royal Highneſs's pardon for the liberty ſhe had taken, but, having a great favour to aſk, in which no time could be loſt, ſhe was the more deſirous of ſeeing him herſelf. The Duke replied, that he thought himſelf honoured by her viſit; and there was no favour ſhe could aſk,

in

in his power to grant, that ſhe might not then command. She then acquainted him with her father's death, and of the place he held, and the great wiſh ſhe had that her brother ſhould ſucceed him; and, on his inquiring how he could ſerve her in this matter, ſhe ſaid, by ſpeaking a word either to Lord Hertford, or his Majeſty. His Highneſs replied, that, was the place in his diſpoſal, it ſhould be at her command; but, as he made it a point, and had ever done ſo, not to aſk a favour of his brother, nor of any placeman under him, he was ſorry it was not in his power to oblige her; but that, if there ſhould be any vacancy in his own eſtabliſhment, either in his band, or houſehold, that would be acceptable, ſhe

might depend on it he would himſelf, on any application of hers, provide for her brother, or her friend.—Chocolate was then brought; and his Highneſs was pleaſed to ſay, the ſtage had ſuſtained a great loſs in her, and he hoped ſhe would return to the theatre, to gratify her friends. She replied, that ſhe did not ever intend it. Some few words further paſſed: ſhe thanked his Royal Highneſs for his obliging offers, and polite condeſcenſion; and took her leave. He conducted her himſelf through the apartments, then made his bow; and Mr. Adams handed her to her coach.

The day after we had received Mr. Damer's information, reſpecting Mr. Hanger,

Hanger, Mrs. Baddeley received the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

" My deareſt Love,

" I ſhall do myſelf the pleaſure " of calling on you this evening, on my " return from the play, where I am to " accompany my dear Betſy; I ſhall not " ſtay out the entertainment; beg you " will be at home, having ſomething to " communicate very particular to you, " and remain

" Yours ever,

" Melbourne."

In the evening he came according to appointment; and the deſign of his viſit was nothing leſs than an injunction to

us,

us, not to admit of Mr. Hanger's visits; saying, he had been informed at Almack's that Mr. Hanger had taken the liberty of mentioning his name in a manner he had no right to do; for which, at a future day, he should call him to an account. I assured his Lordship his injunctions were unnecessary, as I was determined he should neither have countenance, nor admittance into my house: convinced that Mrs. Baddeley had suffered enough through him already, I was resolved, if possible, to prevent the same thing happening again. At this Lord Melbourne expressed himself satisfied and happy.

Mrs. Baddeley had now a new part to study for the Theatre, and was ex-

pected

pected to be ready for it in the courſe of five days. This kept her at home for a few days; but the firſt time ſhe went out, in her way to the Theatre, ſhe called at Mr. Price's, haberdaſher, in Taviſtock-ſtreet, paid a bill of ſeventy pounds, for ribbands, gauzes, &c. &c. and laid out forty pounds more. Amid all the extravagancies, however, that ſhe was guilty of, ſhe never with-held her mite from the diſtreſſes of the unfortunate. Her dreſs was often the admiration of the green-room (a place where the players at the Theatre aſſemble behind the curtain); and, when ſhe found any part of it would be acceptable to the admirer, ſhe frequently made an offer of it, and it changed

owners. It is not exaggeration to ſay, that ſhe was the idol of the performers, who, either through ſincerity or lucrative motives, paid her all the attention poſſible; and it may be truly ſaid, there was not a ſingle perſon belonging to the Theatre, from the higheſt performer to the loweſt, but experienced her liberality, as even Mrs. Barry herſelf muſt allow. This ſpirit ſhe carried to exceſs. Mrs. Hopkins, of Drury-lane theatre, paid her a viſit one morning while ſhe was dreſſing, and admiring a ſet of ſilver fillagree boxes that ornamented her toilette, Mrs. Baddeley preſented her with as many as filled her pockets; and ſhe carried them home with her.

At

At this time the Stratford Jubilee had a run at Drury-lane; and Miſs Radley, who played with Mrs. Baddeley in that piece, ſo far ingratiated herſelf with her, that ſhe gave her all the jewels ſhe wore, before ſhe purchaſed her new ſet; and theſe could not amount to leſs than a hundred pounds. She gave Miſs Radley alſo money and other valuables. Sundry other acts of a ſimilar kind did ſhe perform, in behalf of the comedians of the Theatre to which ſhe belonged: in ſhort, ſhe had no bounds to extravagance in dreſs; and, let what ſhe purchaſed be ever ſo coſtly, before ſhe had worn it three or four times ſhe would give it to her maid-ſervant.

The

The general ſatisfaction Mrs. Baddeley gave in every part ſhe undertook, intitled her, as ſhe thought, to an increaſe of ſalary; and ſhe made an application to Mr. Garrick for that purpoſe; but he refuſed it, and ſent Mr. Wallis, his attorney, to tell her ſo. This ſo angered her, that ſhe declared ſhe would not appear upon the ſtage again till he complied with her requeſt. Lord Melbourne came in at this inſtant, and ſhe made him acquainted with the circumſtance. His Lordſhip, taking advantage of this determination of hers, ſaid all he could to keep her up to it; aſſuring her, ſhe might rely upon him for protection, as he wiſhed to relieve her from the fatigues of a theatrical

life,

life, and ſaying he would put her in poſſeſſion of three times more than ſhe earned by her profeſſion. She urged many objections to this plan, but his Lordſhip uſed every argument to remove them. Mrs. Baddeley, however, being incenſed at Mr. Garrick, liſtened to Lord Melbourne's propoſals, and was inclined to accept them. She determined, therefore, to break off with Mr. Garrick, and actually retired from the ſtage for two years. This was alſo the laſt ſeaſon of her ſinging at Ranelagh.

Having now more time upon her hands, ſhe had a greater opportunity of indulging herſelf in pleaſure. Her uſual

extravagance was not abated by the loſs of her ſalary; but, on the contrary, ſhe launched out into the purſuit of every gratification which ingenuity and invention could deviſe.

Mrs. Baddeley, now quitting the line of that profeſſion, which was the condition on which I conſented to remain with her; I quitted the houſe at Chelſea, and hired another in Grafton-ſtreet, Bond-ſtreet, with a view of letting it out in lodgings. Mr. Gray was the landlord, and the rent two hundred pounds a year. This done, I acquainted Mrs. Baddeley with it; and ſhe was ſo affected at the information, as to burſt into a flood of tears, and entreated

me

me not to leave her, proteſting that life would be inſupportable without me. Lord Melbourne came in at this juncture, and ſeeing Mrs. Baddeley in tears, inquired the cauſe of it; and being told, he uſed every argument in his power to diſſuade me from the meaſure; ſaying, he had a matter to propoſe, which he hoped would not prove unacceptable: this was, to pay me every ſhilling Mrs. Baddeley owed me, and to take the rent of Grafton-ſtreet houſe upon himſelf, on condition I would permit her to remain with me as before. He diſliked the houſe at Chelſea, thought it far from a ſafe retreat, and was anxious to have us out of it. Mrs. Baddeley joined in theſe entreaties, exerting

erting all the influence she was sensible she had with me; and I was prevailed on to acquiesce.

His Lordship now presented Mrs. Baddeley with bank-notes, to the amount of two hundred pounds, in lieu of the salary she had given up; but he omitted to discharge the debt due to me, as he promised. However, his liberality was by no means to be brought in question, as he acted in every other instance with generosity, and a due regard to his word.

Lord Melbourne was not the brightest man of the age, as his letters sent to Mrs. Baddeley at times will show; and

he

he is one among many of the faſhion-able men of the age, who are acquainted neither with good grammar, nor ortho-graphy. See one or two of his letters at the end of this volume.

We removed into Grafton-ſtreet; and Mrs. Baddeley, even in this change of circumſtances, eſcaped the tongue of ſlander. The multitude of her admi-rers, vying with each other to gain her eſteem, left her but little leiſure to re-gret her want of employ. Their offers were great, but made to no purpoſe; ſhe turning a deaf ear to every one but him to whom her faith was pledged. The preſents ſhe received were of no ſmall

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We removed into Grafton-street; and Mrs. Baddeley, even in this change of circumstances, escaped the tongue of slander. The multitude of her admirers, vying with each other to gain her esteem, left her but little leisure to regret her want of employ. Their offers were great, but made to no purpose; she turning a deaf ear to every one but him to whom her faith was pledged. The presents she received were of no small

value; of courſe ſhe had no reaſon to regret the being out of public employ.

The Duke of Northumberland, not ſatisfied with the anſwer Mrs. Baddeley returned to his letter, brought her into Hyde Park; ſent his ſecretary with a note, requeſting he might be induiged with leave to wait on her. His requeſt was complied with, and his Grace drank tea with us. At this viſit he told Mrs. Baddeley, that he was actuated by an impreſſion which all his reſolution was not able to reſiſt; and that her affections were ſuch an object to him, that on condition ſhe would accept of his patronage and protection, he would diſcharge every debt ſhe owed, preſent her

with

with a thouſand guineas as an earneſt of his eſteem, and ſettle on her an annuity of five hundred pounds a year. To this propoſal I inſtantly replied, that if his Grace's whole fortune was to be added to what he now offered, Mrs. Baddeley could not accept it. This perplexed the Duke at firſt; but, ſoon recovering himſelf, he began to expoſtulate, and ſaid, as his ſecrecy might be relied on in this matter, no one could, or ſhould be acquainted with a tittle of it. He ſpent upwards of three hours with us, labouring to obtain a favourable turn in Mrs. Baddeley's ſentiments, but to no purpoſe. He ſaid, however, on taking leave, that he ſhould not conſider this as a denial, but

would,

would, with her leave, perſevere in his application; hoping, at laſt, to make ſome favourable impreſſion on her heart.

During his Grace's viſit, Lord Melbourne called, and finding company, left word he would call again the next day. Lord Groſvenor alſo called, and left his name, ſaying he would take another opportunity to pay his reſpects to her; as did alſo the Honourable Robert Conway, ſon to Lord Hertford, and left his compliments. Lord March (now Duke of Queenſberry) alſo called, and on being told we were indiſpoſed, and could not ſee company, ſent in word that he had ſomething of impor-

tance

tance to communicate. He was on this ſhown up ſtairs; and this matter of importance turned out only to be an invitation to dine with him the next day, which we accepted.

On Lord March's leaving us, the carriage was ordered; and we went to King's, the mercer, in King-ſtreet, Covent-garden, who was not ſparing in ſhowing the moſt coſtly and extravagant ſilks to tempt Mrs. Baddeley's fancy; and I will take this opportunity to obſerve, that perſons in trade, who can have acceſs to women in the ſituation Mrs. Baddeley was then in, are not wanting in induſtry to ſtudy for opportunities of laying before them a variety

riety of pleaſing and faſhionable articles, and will give them credit to any amount. Mrs. Baddeley, at this time, could have almoſt had what credit ſhe pleaſed, but paid well in price for this indulgence; whereas, ſhe was no ſooner looked cool upon by her friends, than theſe tradeſmen became very importunate, and even inſolent. I don't ſay this was the caſe with Mr. King, for ſhe ſeldom was in his debt. She laid out with him this morning, and paid him, two hundred pounds, for a new coach lining, hammer-cloth, with ſundry ſilks at two guineas a yard. On ſetting out, ſhe was determined, ſhe ſaid, to go a *ſhopping*; and true enough ſhe did. She purchaſed alſo articles from Mr. Price,

of Taviſtock-ſtreet, to a great amount: from thence ſhe went to Mr. Jefferſon's the jeweller, at Charing-croſs, where ſhe bought a pair of diamond ear-rings, which coſt her three hundred pounds; and from thence to her milliner's, and other places. In ſhort, ſhe ſpent the whole day in purchaſing, and laid out to the amount of ſeven hundred pounds. In our way home our carriage was interrupted in the Haymarket, by a crowd gathered round a poor man, who had fallen down under his load and broke his leg. Her humanity exerted itſelf upon this occaſion; ſhe ſtopped the carriage, gave him five guineas, and paid for a chair to take him to the hoſpital. On our return home, we found cards

of

of compliments from Sir Francis Molineux and Lord Sefton.

Few perſons in the world experienced its ſmiles more than Mrs. Baddeley did at this time: rank and fortune bowed before her; and it reſted with herſelf, whether ſhe would be miſtreſs of a competence or not. Frugality was no part of her diſpoſition. Had ſhe had diſcretion and ſufficient ſteadineſs to huſband what ſhe received, ſhe might have ſaved a comfortable reſource for a future day; but given up, as ſhe was, to profuſeneſs and extravagance, ſhe thoughtleſsly ſquandered, what would have made her happy when her friends deſerted her.

Lord

Lord Melbourne called in the evening, and Mrs. Baddeley diſplayed before him the many purchaſes ſhe had that day made. His Lordſhip's reply was, he hoped ſhe had pleaſed herſelf; then turned round and preſented her with three hundred pounds, apologizing that he had not ſufficient about him to diſcharge her little account: at this ſhe told him he need not be uneaſy, for the bills were all paid. His Lordſhip then related a laughable circumſtance that happened ſince he ſaw us laſt. He had made a purchaſe of Holland-Houſe, in Piccadily, for ſixteen thouſand pounds, with the ground belonging to it. The ſteward appointed to receive the caſh, waited on his Lordſhip for that purpoſe. Having

received it in bank-notes, he put them in his pocket-book, and laying it on the table, whilſt he ſigned an acknowledgment for the money, went away and left it there. As ſoon as Lord Melbourne perceived it, he diſpatched his ſervant after him, but he was gone too far to be recalled; of courſe his Lordſhip put it away ſafely for him. The ſteward having ſeveral other matters of buſineſs to tranſact, in the courſe of the day, did not miſs his pocket-book till he was going to bed. When he began to undreſs himſelf, in a fit almoſt of diſtraction at his loſs, as he could not recollect where he had left it, he determined to go back to every place where he had been that day; firſt calling

ing at Lord Melbourne's; and in the confuſion he forgot his wig, and came without it. In this ſtate he begged to ſee his Lordſhip, but was informed he was not at home. Not believing this, he puſhed up ſtairs, and entered the room where Lady Melbourne was ſitting. Alarmed at ſeeing a ſtrange man entering her room bare-headed, at that time of night, for it was near twelve, ſhe ſcreamed; but on the ſervants coming up, and her being made acquainted with the man's errand, as ſhe could give no information concerning it, ſhe could only pity him, and his diſtreſſed ſtate of mind. Lord Melbourne ſoon after came home, to whom the poor man, with frantic wildneſs, mixed with

melancholy, told his ſtory; and the joy that ſucceeded when his Lordſhip returned him his book, may be better conceived than deſcribed.

Lord Pigot, who originally availed himſelf of the ſanction his gravity gave him in our houſe, but whoſe profeſſed friendſhip afterwards kindled into a more intereſting ſenſation, called upon us one day, and invited us to paſs a few days at Brighthelmſtone; which we accepted, and promiſed to be there on the Sunday following. We ſet out in our phaëton, and arrived at his Lordſhip's by dinner time. His attention and politeneſs were not the leaſt abated by the repulſe he met with, when he made declarations

clarations of love to Mrs. Baddeley, and after dinner he propoſed a walk. A houſe on the Stein being then to let, next the Duke of Marlborough's, we we went to look at it, and on viewing it, hired it as a temporary reſidence; and as it was ready for our reception, we took poſſeſſion of it that evening.

The charms of the ſeaſon had drawn together, at this place, a great number of people of the firſt faſhion; and every thing contributing to make this retreat deſirable, we reſolved to ſpend as much time there as we could. After placing the houſe under the care of proper ſervants, we returned the next day to London. Lord Melbourne was ſur-

prifed at not being informed of this excurfion, and Mrs Baddeley feeming to be hurt at his Lordfhip's fuppofitions, an explanation took place, and he was told every thing that paffed: his Lordfhip was pleafed to expref's a fatisfaction at our having taken a houfe at Brighthelmftone, as he was under a neceffity of going with his dear Betfy to Scarborough for a month, and hoped Mrs. Baddeley would find fea-bathing and fea-breezes conduce to her health. As this, he faid, was dear to him, he particularly recommended to her the care of it, it having been much injured by too clofe an application to her theatrical engagements. On his return to town, he promifed to pay us a vifit there,

there; and her coach was new painted, and highly varnished for the journey.

His Lordship informed us that he was at the rehearsal of the opera, the day before, with Lady Melbourne, and that the audience was as numerous as if it was evening; and was particularly pleased with Madame Heinel's dancing, which exceeded his expectations. He next informed us of a paragraph he had seen in the news-papers that day respecting him, which must have been inserted by some malicious person. It was to this effect, "that he had pur-
"chased a diamond necklace for Mrs.
"Baddeley, and that the jeweller had
"taken it home to his Lordship's house
"through

" through miſtake; that it fell into
" Lady Melbourne's hands, who, con-
" ceiving it purchaſed for her, approved
" his Lordſhip's choice, and put it
" among the reſt of her jewels; and that,
" on his coming home, her Ladyſhip
" thanked him for his preſent, which
" ſurpriſed and alarmed him." Every circumſtance of this ſtory was falſe and groundleſs, and it was manifeſtly inſerted for ſome evil purpoſe: it, however, failed in its deſign; for Lady Melbourne, reading the paragraph, only ſmiled at the tale, and ſaid the paper might have been better employed.

Mrs. Baddeley acquainted Lord Melbourne, that ſhe propoſed going to

Richmond

Richmond next day to ſee a friend: his Lordſhip wiſhed to be of the party; but ſhe put a negative on it, as his Lordſhip's being ſeen with her there, would be in him an act of impropriety. He ſmiled acquieſcence, and we went to Richmond without him. Our party conſiſted of ſix, among whom were Lord Stanley (now Lord Derby) and Thomas Storer, Eſq. The day was very agreeably ſpent; the entertainment was ſplendid; a well-choſen band of muſic, and ſome excellent voices performed during the evening, and we returned to town late.

Going to the rehearſal at the Opera-houſe, according to Lord Melbourne's recom-

recommendation, in order to ſee Madame Heinel dance, the Honourable Mr. Hobart, and Mr. Crawford, joint-managers, came up to us, and paid their reſpects. Mr. Hobart begged leave to pay Mrs. Baddeley a viſit, having ſomething particular to ſay to her. She, not ſuſpecting his buſineſs was of any other nature than relative to the box I had engaged, told him ſhe ſhould be happy to ſee him when he called. On our return home in the evening, we found Mr. Hobart there, who ſaid he had waited for us an hour. The purport of his viſit was to make Mrs. Baddeley a profeſſion of his love, with an offer of his protection, and the command of whatever was in his power to endow her with.

with. She thanked him for his kind intentions, but told him, whatever opinion he might entertain of her from appearance, he could have no ground to form the ſmalleſt hopes of ſucceſs in his preſent propoſal. Her attention was ſolely fixed to one object, from whom her eſteem and gratitude were inſeparable. Mr. Hobart remonſtrated, and preſſed his ſuit with all the arguments he was maſter of; but Mrs. Baddeley aſſured him that his viſits on any other terms than thoſe of friendſhip would be inadmiſſible; and as a *friend*, ſhe could have no objection to the honour of his acquaintance among that of others.

Before

Before Mr. Hobart withdrew, he requested we would permit him to give us a receipt for our box at the Opera-houſe, the price of which was eighty pounds for the ſeaſon. We refuſed this offer; but Mr. Hobart perſiſting in it, we were conſtrained to accept it. He wrote a receipt and left it, profeſſing himſelf happy in being admitted into the claſs of Mrs. Baddeley's friends. Before he withdrew, he informed us, that there would be ſhortly a maſquerade at the Opera-houſe, and he ſhould take the liberty to ſend us tickets.

Mr. Timothy Caſwell, then Secretary to Mr. Rigby, an old acquaintance of Mrs. Baddeley's waited on her one day,

and

and told her that a perſon with whom he was intimately acquainted, was very deſirous of being introduced to her; her reply was, that any friend of his would be well received. In a few days this friend was introduced, whoſe name ſhall be mentioned hereafter.

The reader will naturally be inquiſitive to know whether among all theſe viſitants ſhe had not ſeen Mr. John Hanger. To ſatisfy him in this, I will inform him, that one evening, when ſhe was at Vauxhall-gardens, ſince ſhe dropped her profeſſional character, he came up to her, and addreſſed her with his uſual confidence and flattery. She entreated he would leave her, but he

declared he would not. She then determined, in order to get rid of him, to leave the gardens, and went to the houſe of a friend in King's-row Chelſea, to ſpend the evening.

Lord Melbourne having occaſion to go down with a friend to his country-ſeat, near Hatfield; Mrs. Baddeley took the opportunity to viſit Oxford, and when every thing was arranged for the purpoſe, Mr. Damer called and requeſted to be of the party, but was refuſed. We ordered our coach and four and took Dr. Arne with us; and ſtopping in our way there, at Maidenhead-bridge, were handed from our carriage by Lord Villiers, and the late Lord Lyttelton,

Lyttelton, who inſiſted we ſhould ſtay and dine with them. Though we would not permit Mr. Damer to go with us, yet on our arrival at Oxford, no ſooner did we reach the inn, than this gentleman preſented himſelf to hand us out, having been at Oxford two hours waiting for us. We could not refuſe him our company, and he ordered a very elegant ſupper for us at his own expence. We parted for the evening, but in the morning he breakfaſted with us, and conducted us to the ſeveral colleges. In the evening we ſet off again for town, and Mr. Damer would entertain us again at Salt-hill. As he had not an opportunity of ſaying what he wiſhed to Mrs. Baddeley, he endeavoured by his

eyes and inuendos to explain himſelf, but ſhe parried the whole ſo dexterouſly as not to ſeem to notice them. The fineneſs of the day led us into the garden, and to our great ſurpriſe, we were there accoſted by Mr. John Hanger, who had left town in ſearch of us: he would fain have joined us, but was abſolutely refuſed. "Well," ſays he, turning to Mr. Damer, "ſince you won't let me be "of your party, I am determined I'll "tell." "Do ſo," ſays he, "and it will "reflect an honour on me, for I ſhall glory "in having it known with whom I ſpent "the day." We laughed heartily and he left us. "This man," ſays Mr. Damer, "is "now ſo angry, that he would deſtroy me "if he could, for my attention to you; "but

" but whilſt I am purſuing the wiſh of " my heart, I neither regard what he " can deviſe or effect; ſo as he does " not interrupt the happineſs of my " friend" (looking ſtedfaſtly at Mrs. Baddeley); " and I hope I may take the " liberty to call you by that endearing " name, though that of lover would ſuit " my feelings beſt." " Leave love out " of the queſtion," replies Mrs. Baddeley, " and call upon me for as much " friendſhip, as my mind is capable of " entertaining, and your ſuit will not " be in vain; but as my heart is not my " own, to talk of love would be injuri- " ous to us both." Mr. Damer liſtened, looked, and wiſhed to ſpeak, but had not power; a ſilence of ſome length

enſued, and yet the party was as much engaged, as if they had all been talking. The eloquent ſenſibility of the eyes conveyed information to the mind of every one. Mrs. Baddeley at laſt broke the ſilence, by warbling forth the words of an old ſong, with which ſhe had often charmed a liſtening crowd.

Before we go away, ſir,
As we may never meet again,
Give me leave to thank you, ſir,
For the gen'rous care you've ta'en.

Your candour might impeach me,
Were I blind to your deſert;
Though love can never reach me,
Friendſhip may touch my heart.

The evening advancing fast, we proposed setting off, and Mr. Damer requesting a seat in our coach, we gave him a cast to town, and set him down at the end of Park-lane, continuing our way to Grafton-street, where we found that Lord Palmerston, Lord Clanbrazil, Sir Thomas Mills, Mr. Caswell, and Mr. Hanger had called; but the latter had said nothing of his having seen us at Salt-hill.

In our absence, our cook was delivered of a fine boy, which Mrs. Baddeley, having no children of her own, thought proper to adopt, and put it out to nurse at her own expence, suffering the mo-

ther

ther to continue in our houſe till ſhe was able to go abroad.

This was not the only child her humanity led her to adopt; ſhe had the ſon of her nurſe at ſchool at her own expence, whom ſhe cloathed, and to whom ſhe gave the beſt education; and did a thouſand little kindneſſes to his mother.

The next morning after our return from Oxford, Lord Melbourne called, being juſt returned from the country; he could not, he ſaid, ſuffer a day to paſs, without ſeeing his dear love, though he muſt return to his dear Betſy in the evening. We made him acquainted with our excurſion to Oxford, and ſaid Dr.

Arne

Arne was of the party, but not a word of Mr. Damer. In the evening he returned to his ſeat in the country, where he propoſed to ſtay two days.

He was no ſooner gone than we ordered our phaeton, and horſes for our ſervants, and ſet off for Richmond Theatre, where Dr. Arne had invited us to a party with Capt. William Fawkner, ſon to Lady Fawkner, but now Lady Paulet; though he did not tell us, he had acquainted the Captain with the favour we deſigned him. We no ſooner entered the box, than Captain Fawkner followed us, and inſtantly addreſſed us with, He had impatiently waited our arival for ſome time, and was

fearful

fearful we ſhould not come; ſaying Dr. Arne had given him hopes of ſeeing us, but did not abſolutely ſay we ſhould be there. Being ſtrangers to this gentleman, we were at a loſs to know who he was, who ſtill continued talking to us; ſaid, he had ſeen the ſame play twice before, and it was ſo wretchedly performed, that he was ſure it would give us no pleaſure, and adviſed us to leave the Theatre. Dr. Arne, who followed him in, joined him in his requeſt. After a little time, we took his advice and retired to the Caſtle Inn, to tea, where Captain Fawkner attended us. He ſoon began to deal in flames and darts; in ſhort, to ſay, he was over head and ears in love with Mrs. Baddeley, whom

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On our return home I took Mrs. Baddeley to taſk for her imprudence, in liſtening to Captain Fawkner's nonſenſe; a man whom ſhe had never ſeen before. Mrs. Baddeley laughed, which made me enquire further into the buſineſs; at laſt ſhe thought proper to tell me, that ſhe had ſeen him before, and that the appointment to meet him at Richmond, was by her own deſire, through the means of Dr. Arne. This

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Glides trembling down the ſlipp'ry paths of vice;
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Calling at our mantua-maker's the next morning, we ſaw a dreſs belonging to Mrs. Abington of Drury-lane Theatre, which we thought uncommonly beautiful; it was a muſlin ſprigged with gold; Mrs. Abington's own work in the Tambour. Mrs. Baddeley ſeeming to covet it, the woman told her ſhe

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We were of courſe anxious to become poſſeſſed of it. Two hundred and fifty pounds was the value ſet upon the furniture, and the leaſe to be paid for beſides. I agreed that evening to purchaſe the whole at the fixed price, called on Mrs. Abington the next day and paid her the money. This, with Grafton-ſtreet houſe, and the houſe at Brighthelmſtone, was the third reſidence we at one time poſſeſſed. It is but juſtice to the liberality of Mrs. Abington, to ſay, that the price ſhe put upon the furniture was much leſs than what a broker who ſaw

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" Your's to command,

" Melbourne.

" *Brocket hall,*
Monday morning."

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This intelligence was matter of chagrin to Mrs. Baddeley, as it not only disappointed her of seeing Lord Melbourne as soon as she expected, but it broke off an engagement she had made with me the next day; so that she peevishly wished his Lordship was further off than a few miles from town. She thought proper to tell me, that, when I was gone to take possession of the house at Hammersmith, she received a visit from Captain Fawkner, who staid with her an hour and a half; she called him a good young man, and expressed herself very happy in his company. Not contented with this, she passed on him the highest encomiums, spoke highly of his personal accomplishments, and declar-

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it home to her with a complimentary note, of which the following is a copy.

" The unexpected pleasure of seeing " Mrs. Baddeley this morning, gives " no time for imparting a matter of " some consequence to her. The pine- " apple will inform who writes this, and " this evening he will call at nine, to " communicate what it is to Mrs. " Baddeley.

" *Thursday, twelve o'clock.*"

On leaving St. James's-street, we went for an airing into Hyde Park, where we were met by Lord Clanbrazil, who invited us to dine with him; we accepted his Lordship's invitation, and

hurrying

hurrying home to dreſs, found the above note from the Duke of Ancaſter, and alſo the following from Mr. R. Conway.

" Mr. R. Conway's reſpectful com-
" pliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and Mrs.
" Steele, and begs they would permit
" him to wait on them to tea this
" evening.

" *Thurſday noon.*"

We anſwered Mr. Conway's card, and told him we ſhould be happy in his company at any future time, but muſt be excuſed the preſent, as we were going out on a prior engagement. We alſo left a meſſage with the ſervant, to

be

be delivered to a gentleman who was to call at nine o'clock. He was inſtructed to be very particular in informing him, that we dined out, and ſhould with a party ſpend the evening at Vauxhall, and that it was out of Mrs. Baddeley's power to be at home agreeable to the appointment made, but that at any other time, ſhe ſhould be happy to receive his communications, relative to the matter contained in his meſſage.

We arrived at Lord Clanbrazil's at four, and his Lordſhip handed us from our carriage, and conducted us up ſtairs, where to our great ſurprize, the firſt perſon who preſented himſelf was Baddeley's once dear Gaby. This unexpected

expected rencontre ſhocked her for the moment, and it was noticed by the whole company. She turned quite pale, all her animation left her, and it was ſome ſeconds before ſhe was able to ſuſtain herſelf. He came up to her and me, and aſked how we did, but his civility was returned by us with a marked coolneſs. When the company ſat down to dinner, he ſeated himſelf by Mr. Baddeley, who inſtantly roſe and removed her ſeat next to me. This was no ſmall mortification to Mr. Hanger's pride. During dinner it was obſervable that neither he nor Mrs. Baddeley eat any thing; and Lord Clanbrazil, who was not only a man of gallantry, but a good-hearted man, uſed his utmoſt en-

deavours to bring about a reconciliation between them. Theſe endeavours of his Lordſhip gave great pain to Mrs. Baddeley. So certain is the change from love to hatred, whenever the bond that unites two hearts is ſnapped aſunder by any ingratitude or cruelty in the one, that a coalition with any other object is eaſier effected than a reunion of the former two.

Soon after dinner we attempted to withdraw, but Lord Clanbrazil requeſted we would not deprive him of the pleaſure he propoſed to himſelf for the evening, in our company, and to partake of which indeed he had invited theſe his friends; and promiſed, on condition we would

ſtay,

ſtay, he would avoid introducing the ſame diſagreeable topic again, which he obſerved made Mrs. Baddeley ſo unhappy. He then propoſed a party to Vauxhall. Mrs. Baddeley wrote with a pencil and gave it to Lord Clanbrazil, that ſhe ſhould have no objection, if Mr. Hanger was not to be of the party; but if he was, ſhe muſt beg leave to be excuſed. His Lordſhip ſaid, he would take care that he ſhould not.

It perhaps may not be unneceſſary to ſay, that though Mrs. Baddeley's company was not coveted for her vocal abilities, yet it ſeldom if ever happened that ſhe was in company with any of her friends, that they were not eager to hear

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Mrs. Baddeley acknowledged the truth of all I ſaid, but notwithſtanding, found herſelf unable to eraſe or ſmother the impreſſion Captain Fawkner had made on her. The matter however ended on my reſolution not to admit of his viſits.

Being one day at Mr. Ridley's, the bookſeller in St. James's-ſtreet, where Mrs. Baddeley purchaſed books, to the amount of fifty-ſix pounds; Lord Harrington, the father of the preſent Lord, who was then in the ſhop, begged he might be permitted to pay for them, and have the honour of preſenting them to us. This we declined. He then requeſted

requeſted we would accept of a ſet of books of his own ſelection, and this was declined alſo. His Lordſhip ſeemed much hurt at our non-acceptance of the books, but more ſo, on being refuſed leave to pay us a viſit in Grafton-ſtreet. He declared however, that he would take no denial, but would call on us the next day. On leaving the ſhop we ſtepped a few doors further up, to purchaſe ſome fruit; Mrs. Baddeley aſked the price of a pine-apple; and being told a guinea, for the firſt time ſince I knew her, ſhe declined to gratify her inclination at ſuch an expence. But, the Duke of Ancaſter being in the ſhop, afterwards purchaſed the pine, and ſent

it

it home to her with a complimentary note, of which the following is a copy.

" The unexpected pleasure of seeing " Mrs. Baddeley this morning, gives " no time for imparting a matter of " some consequence to her. The pine- " apple will inform who writes this, and " this evening he will call at nine, to " communicate what it is to Mrs. " Baddeley.

" *Thursday, twelve o'clock.*"

On leaving St. James's-street, we went for an airing into Hyde Park, where we were met by Lord Clanbrazil, who invited us to dine with him; we accepted his Lordship's invitation, and

hurrying

hurrying home to dreſs, found the above note from the Duke of Ancaſter, and alſo the following from Mr. R. Conway.

" Mr. R. Conway's reſpectful com-
" pliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and Mrs.
" Steele, and begs they would permit
" him to wait on them to tea this
" evening.

" *Thurſday noon.*"

We anſwered Mr. Conway's card, and told him we ſhould be happy in his company at any future time, but muſt be excuſed the preſent, as we were going out on a prior engagement. We alſo left a meſſage with the ſervant, to

be

be delivered to a gentleman who was to call at nine o'clock. He was inſtructed to be very particular in informing him, that we dined out, and ſhould with a party ſpend the evening at Vauxhall, and that it was out of Mrs. Baddeley's power to be at home agreeable to the appointment made, but that at any other time, ſhe ſhould be happy to receive his communications, relative to the matter contained in his meſſage.

We arrived at Lord Clanbrazil's at four, and his Lordſhip handed us from our carriage, and conducted us up ſtairs, where to our great ſurprize, the firſt perſon who preſented himſelf was Baddeley's once dear Gaby. This unexpected

expected rencontre ſhocked her for the moment, and it was noticed by the whole company. She turned quite pale, all her animation left her, and it was ſome ſeconds before ſhe was able to ſuſtain herſelf. He came up to her and me, and aſked how we did, but his civility was returned by us with a marked coolneſs. When the company ſat down to dinner, he ſeated himſelf by Mr. Baddeley, who inſtantly roſe and removed her ſeat next to me. This was no ſmall mortification to Mr. Hanger's pride. During dinner it was obſervable that neither he nor Mrs. Baddeley eat any thing; and Lord Clanbrazil, who was not only a man of gallantry, but a good-hearted man, uſed his utmoſt en-

deavours to bring about a reconciliation between them. Theſe endeavours of his Lordſhip gave great pain to Mrs. Baddeley. So certain is the change from love to hatred, whenever the bond that unites two hearts is ſnapped aſunder by any ingratitude or cruelty in the one, that a coalition with any other object is eaſier effected than a reunion of the former two.

Soon after dinner we attempted to withdraw, but Lord Clanbrazil requeſted we would not deprive him of the pleaſure he propoſed to himſelf for the evening, in our company, and to partake of which indeed he had invited theſe his friends; and promiſed, on condition we would

ſtay,

ſtay, he would avoid introducing the ſame diſagreeable topic again, which he obſerved made Mrs. Baddeley ſo unhappy. He then propoſed a party to Vauxhall. Mrs. Baddeley wrote with a pencil and gave it to Lord Clanbrazil, that ſhe ſhould have no objection, if Mr. Hanger was not to be of the party; but if he was, ſhe muſt beg leave to be excuſed. His Lordſhip ſaid, he would take care that he ſhould not.

It perhaps may not be unneceſſary to ſay, that though Mrs. Baddeley's company was not coveted for her vocal abilities, yet it ſeldom if ever happened that ſhe was in company with any of her friends, that they were not eager to hear

her ſing; and her politeneſs and good-nature never refuſed it, when ſhe was able to oblige them. In a room, her voice was melodious, and her taſte was not exceeded by the firſt ſinger of the age. Mrs. Baddeley, when aſked for a ſong, was always happy in the recollection of one which ſuited the occaſion of the meeting, the converſation then on the carpet, or the conviviality of the parties: being aſked for a ſong here, ſhe began that of Sappho's ode.

Bleſt as the immortal gods is he,
The youth, who fondly ſits by thee,
And hears, and ſees thee all the while,
Gently talk and ſweetly ſmile.

'Twas

'Twas this depriv'd my ſoul of reſt,
And rais'd ſuch tumults in my breaſt;
For whilſt I gaz'd, in tranſport toſt,
My voice was gone, my heart was loſt.

The emotion with which ſhe ſung the line,

'Twas this depriv'd my ſoul of reſt,

Struck every one preſent ſo forcibly that their eyes were fixed on Mr. Hanger. His face was in a blaze, he did not ſeem to know whether he was ſitting in his chair or not, and was agitated as if with conſcious guilt.

After tea, we prepared for Vauxhall, Mr. Hanger only excepted, who with-

drew, much hurt and confuſed at the reception he met with. Lord Clanbrazil accompanied us in our carriage, and the reſt of the company followed in their own. As ſoon as the performance at the garden was over, an elegant ſupper was prepared, the band of muſic was engaged to play during the repaſt, and the ſerenity and ſoftneſs of the weather contributed not a little to the pleaſures of the evening.

Next morning, whilſt we were at breakfaſt, Lord Melbourne came in, and we made him acquainted with our having taken Mrs. Abington's houſe at Hammerſmith; and that our ſervants were now in it. He commended our

expedition,

expedition, and hoped, (as he always did, when we informed him of any new ſtep we had taken,) that we had pleaſed ourſelves. Deſirous of ſeeing this new reſidence, he accompanied us there, and was highly delighted with the beauty and elegance of the place, and wiſhed us to reſide there, on our return from Brighthelmſtone, as much as poſſible.

The buſineſs his Lordſhip had to impart to us was, that he was to ſet out for Scarborough, on the Tueſday following; and therefore requeſted his dear love would let him know the amount of her debts, that he might diſcharge them before he went. She told him his great liberality to her, ſince ſhe had the honour

of

of knowing him, put her above the neceſſity of running in debt, of courſe ſhe had none to trouble him with. He then gave her five hundred pounds, and ſaid, if ſhe found herſelf in want of more before his return, to let him know it by a line to Scarborough, and he would inſtantly remit it.

At this viſit Lord Melbourne was more explicit than he had ever been yet; and whilſt I was treating with the ground-landlord for a piece of ground adjoining, in order to build a coach-houſe on, Lord Melbourne had put Baddeley into the higheſt ſpirits. She and his Lordſhip looked at each other, and laughed very heartily. "You,"

ſays

ſays Mrs. Baddeley to me, "have juſt "made *your* agreement, and ſo have "I *mine*." And then they laughed again. What occaſioned this flow of ſpirits, we muſt leave our readers to conjecture.

Lord Melbourne now took his leave, and Mr. Damer ſoon after made his appearance, and ſeeing Mrs. Baddeley in unuſual ſpirits, ſaid, "What's come to "you to-day? Tell us. Let us laugh "with you." "No, no," ſays ſhe, "it is "fun of my own making. It is in con-"ſequence of a journey I took to-day. "Mrs. Steele thinks ſhe is not often de-"ceived, but I have deceived her to-"day, as I have done before, and

" ſhe is not pleaſed with it." Indeed ſhe might truly ſay it, as it was the firſt time I had any ſuſpicion of her having had any private connexion with Lord Melbourne. This made Mr. Damer more inquiſitive ſtill, but he could obtain no explanation. He then wiſhed he had been of the party: Mrs. Baddeley wiſhed ſo too, and fell into another fit of laughter. He began then to think ſhe was laughing at him, and aſked if he had given any affront; ſhe ſaid, no; and a letter being at that inſtant brought in from Mr. Hanger, it put an end to her laughing. She read the letter, apologizing for the liberty, and when done, ſent her compliments and ſaid it required no anſwer.

Mr.

Mr. Hanger's letter was as follows:

" Dear Madam,

" I am diſtracted at your con-
" duct to me yeſterday, and miſerable
" beyond deſcription, to be at the ſame
" table and to have all the company's
" obſervations on my folly; yet I can-
" not term it ſo, as it riſes from my
" great affection for you. Dear Sophia,
" can you torture a man you once loved
" in preference to all the world? I
" know I am deſpiſed by your friend,
" and of courſe ſhe is my enemy; I
" ſhall live to reward her with ſuch
" thanks as may not pleaſe. Yet, my
" dear Sophia, let me crave your par-
" don for all my cruel neglect of you,

" and

" and take me to your heart: I will be
" grateful, and it reſts with you to make
" me happy, or miſerable. Send me
" your anſwer, if I may be ſo bleſt as to
" be permitted to call on you; when I
" will attone for my paſt conduct, and
" ſtudy to make you happy; am impa-
" tient to hear from my dear Sophia.

" I remain, my dear Sophia,

" Your conſtant, unalterable,

" though unhappy lover,

" J. Hanger.

" *Saturday; Sutton-ſtreet,*

" *Piccadilly.*"

Mr. Damer preſſing much to ſee Mr. Hanger's letter, after ſome little demur, his requeſt was complied with, and he

was

was much diverted with it's contents. It occaſioned a good deal of laughter between Mrs. Baddeley and him, and he exclaimed ſeveral times, "Poor Gaby, "is it at laſt come to this!"

It was an act of imprudence in Mrs. Baddeley, notwithſtanding her anger, to ſhew Mr. Damer, Mr. Hanger's letter; but this imprudence was general with her, and was one of her uſual weakneſſes: ſhe had unfortunately a babbling tongue, and could keep nothing a ſecret; the private converſation of one, ſhe would communicate to another; and though ſhe felt not it's ill effects at preſent, it was in the end very injurious to her.

Mr. Damer was very ſolicitous for leave to pay his viſits more frequent; but was told, it was a matter he muſt not urge, as there were reaſons to the contrary, which ſhe could not at preſent acquaint him with.

The next morning a gentleman ſent in his name and requeſted either to ſee Mrs. Baddeley or me. I received him, and begging to know his commands, was told, that he waited on us at the inſtance of his Grace of Ancaſter, to tell Mrs. Baddeley, with his reſpectful compliments, that he had waited on her, agreeable to his promiſe in the note he ſent; and not finding her at home, had left word he would call at ſome other

time;

time; that his buſineſs now was to acquaint her, that with Mrs. Baddeley's permiſſion, his Grace would do himſelf the honour of waiting on her on Sunday evening; and if it did not ſuit her to ſee him at her own houſe, he would give her the meeting at ſome little diſtance from town. I told him Mrs. Baddeley was at home, but ſo engaged, that I could not acquaint her with his Grace's meſſage; and was ſhe even at liberty, I could not think of doing it, as there were many reaſons, why his viſits could not be permitted. The gentleman replied, upon his honour, that his Grace was not coming as a ſuitor, but as a friend and well-wiſher to Mrs. Baddeley, and, as a teſt of it, the Duke

begged my acceptance of a trifle, which he had purpoſely brought. At this he took out of his pocket-book, notes, to the amount of upwards of two hundred pounds, and offered them to me, which I refuſed, with ſome degree of reſentment, and told him "I was not to be "bribed." He wiſhed me not to conſider the preſent in that light, but as an earneſt of his Grace's friendſhip to Mrs. Baddeley, who lived in my houſe. I replied, "that if he did not drop the "ſubject, I ſhould immediately quit the "room; and ſaid, his Grace might ſpare "himſelf the trouble of calling, for I "ſhould by no means admit of his "viſits at my houſe." The gentleman was rather diſpleaſed at this, and ſaid,

that

that his Grace's intentions were honourable, and did not merit ſuch a return. "In what reſpect," replied I, "can they "be honourable? Mrs. Baddeley's "ſituation in life does not entitle her to "receive ſuch noble viſitants, on *honour-* "*able* terms, and therefore they muſt "be *diſhonourable*; and I flatter myſelf, "ſhe is ſo circumſtanced at preſent, as "to enable her to act with more pru- "dence, than to ſuffer ſuch inſults as "his Grace's viſits muſt amount to." On this I rung the bell for my ſervant, to attend him to the door, and left him.

This perſon was no ſooner gone, than Mrs. Baddeley came down ſtairs, eager to know the reſult of this viſit, and on

my relating the whole, she hastily replied, "Why did not you take the "money and laugh at him? The Duke "could afford to pay for his impertinence, and had I been present I "would have made him." When I related to her what I had said respecting her situation in life, not entitling her to the honour of visits from men of such rank, she was rather hurt, and would not admit there was any disgrace in receiving them; and thought he might have been permitted to have come. At this I replied with some warmth, "that her "visits and visitors had already caused "me a great deal of unhappiness, and I "was determined, she should receive "no more of them under my roof:

"that

" that his offering me a bribe, was an
" inſult of the higheſt degree, and that I
" was juſt on the eve of calling up my
" ſervant to turn him out of the houſe."
At this Mrs. Baddeley laughed, ſaid ſhe was only in joke, and begged I would not be angry. Lord Melbourne coming in at this juncture, put a ſtop to the converſation. He brought a pine-apple in his pocket, and ſaid his dear Betſy (meaning his lady) had ſent it; which however he contradicted by a ſmile. His Lordſhip had no ſooner left us, than Lord Sefton called, to whom we were denied, and he was immediately followed by Captain Fawkner. On the ſervant's ſaying Mrs. Baddeley was not

at

at home, ſhe, ſeeing him from the window, called out, " Yes I am."

Captain Fawkner flew inſtantly to the ſtairs, where I ſtopped his career by ſaying, " If you want Mrs. Baddeley, " ſir, and ſhe thinks proper to receive " your viſits, you muſt ſee her in the " parlour." On which Mrs. Baddeley called out to him, " Mrs. Steele, I find, " is out of humour, and I muſt wiſh " you good morning; for I muſt not, " nor will I, offend her." He was diſpleaſed at this, and ſaid, " Let her be " offended; only give me leave to ſay ſix " words to you alone, and I'll be gone." However, ſhe was prudent enough to ſay, ſhe was too much engaged for the

preſent,

preſent, hoped he would not take it amiſs, and ſhould be happy to ſee him at ſome other time. During this converſation on the ſtairs, Lord March, now Duke of Queenſberry, was admitted, and ſaw Captain Fawkner, with whom, after his uſual politeneſs to us, he entered into chat, and they were deſired to walk into the parlour, accompanied by Mrs. Baddeley and me; and a harpſichord being in the room, at the joint requeſt of the gentlemen, Mrs. Baddeley ſung them a ſong.

In the interim came Mr. Robert Conway, and Mr. William Hanger, who were ſhewn into the drawing-room; and their names being ſent in, his Lordſhip

Lordſhip and Mr. Fawkner took their leave. On our entering the drawing-room, Mr. Hanger told us his brother was ill, and aſked, if we had not heard of it. Mrs. Baddeley replied, "I am "ſorry to learn he is not well, but wiſh "never to hear his name mentioned in "my preſence." "What not your poor "Gaby?" ſays Mr. Hanger, who, by the by, was not a little piqued and jealous at his brother's ſupplanting him.

It is ſomewhat ſingular that theſe brothers ſhould all be running after the ſame woman. George, the third brother, like the other two, uſed every means in his power to gain Mrs. Baddeley's affections, but to no purpoſe. Mr. Conway

was

was on the ſame plan; but though an admirer of her perſon, he was always too much her friend to intrude upon her, and received a denial of his wiſhes, with that ſenſibility and calmneſs as did honour to his heart.

Lord Melbourne came now to take his leave, as he was going to Scarborough the next morning, for a ſecond time within the month; and preſented Mrs. Baddeley with four hundred pounds, ſaying, if ſhe wanted more in his abſence, on writing to him ſhe ſhould immediately have it. His Lordſhip muſt have loved her, for he always ſhed tears at parting with her. He ever called her his deareſt love, and ſeldom left her

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without bleſſing her ſweet face: a hack-ney coach was now called, and he left us; for he never came in his own car-riage.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

The following are a few of Lord Melbourne's letters. No. I. was ſent to Mrs. Steele, the day after he fled out of the parlour window, in St. James's-place.

No. I.

" Dear Mrs. Steele,

" I am afraid you got your trim-
" mings laſt night; ſend me word back
" if my dear creature will meet me
" in the ſame place in Weſtminſter-
" Abby, to day at four o'clock.

" Otherwiſe I fear I ſhall not ſee her
" to day. I have got her a Maſque-
" rade ticket.

Your's,

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Steele,*

" *St. James's-place.*"

No. II.

" *Richmond, Sept.* 1, 1771.

" My dear Love,

" I hope you received my let-
" ter from York; that it found you
" quite well; I long much to ſee you,
" and

" and think it an age ſince I had that
" happeyneſs; I ſhall be able to retorn
" in three weeks, and will immediately
" be in London to ſee you. I wiſh I
" chould make it but 3 days: but
" you will, I hope, be aſhured that it
" is not in my power to help it; I long
" to here from you, but I muſt poſ-
" pone that happeyneſs for fear your
" letters ſhould be ſeen. God bleſs
" you, and don't lett this abſence leſſen
" your love, for, my dear,

" Your's, &c.

" Affectionately,

" Melbourne."

" P. S. Ten thouſand kiſſes I in-
" cloſe you. I have directed this to
" Pimlico, as you may perhaps be re-
" torned from Brighthelmſton. I will
" let you know ſoon exactly when I
" can ſee you.

" Adieu Love."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley,*
" *Pimlico.*"

No. III.

" My deareſt Love,
" This is the firſt moment I could
" get to inform you, that I can't come
" out

" out of doors this day; my eyes are
" exceedingly inflamed. I am obliged
" to keep them covered with parſley
" and cream; can ſcarcely look long
" and nuff to write this.

" *Satturday.*

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. IV.

" My Love,

" I am juſt retorned to town,
" and as I unexpectedly have found
" the child much out of order, I am
" obliged to ſtay at home till the

" Dockter comes, which may be late
" firſt, and therefore deprives me of the
" pleaſhure of ſeeing you to night, but
" I will call to morrow, at two o'clock.
" I hope you are got quite well again,
" you may be aſhured nothing elce
" ſhould have hindered me the happey-
" neſs of ſeeing my love to night; in
" the mean time I ſend you a thouſand
" kiſſes.

" Your's,

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. V.

" My dear Love;

" You can't conceive how
" unhappey I was, being disappointed
" of the happeyness of seeing you, but
" I flatter myself you will be convinced
" that it was totally impossible for me,
" as I was obliged to go to the club
" with some ladies, who obliged me
" to play 'till after supper, when you
" know I could not be so happey to call
" on you on many accounts. My dear,
" I hope you will not be angry, as
" you know I have ever made a point

" not

" not to disappoint you, which nothing
" that would hinder, should ever make
" me do; and if you knew how happey
" I am to see you, you will pity my
" being so unfortunate as not to see
" you half so much as I wish.—I am
" just going into the country, shall re-
" turn in the evening, and am obliged
" to go with Lady Bellasyze, to Vaux-
" hall; if, after your singing, you can
" come there, it will give me pleasure
" to see you. As I go to Bath on
" Wednesday next, I beg to be so
" happey as to see you at Pimlico to-
" morrow at nine o'clock. My dear
" love, think of me, and be sure that
" any thing that hinders my seeing you,

" will

" will ever give me pain. I ſend you
" ten thouſand kiſſes.

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. VI.

" My dear Love,

" I have juſt ſeen your picture
" at Reynold's, and think it will be
" well done. I ſend you a million of
" kiſſes, and long to ſee you, on which
" account I will ſtay as ſhort a time as
" I can in the country. I hope to ſee

" not to disappoint you, which nothing
" that would hinder, should ever make
" me do; and if you knew how happey
" I am to see you, you will pity my
" being so unfortunate as not to see
" you half so much as I wish.—I am
" just going into the country, shall re-
" turn in the evening, and am obliged
" to go with Lady Bellasyze, to Vaux-
" hall; if, after your singing, you can
" come there, it will give me pleasure
" to see you. As I go to Bath on
" Wednesday next, I beg to be so
" happey as to see you at Pimlico to-
" morrow at nine o'clock. My dear
" love, think of me, and be sure that
" any thing that hinders my seeing you,

" will

" will ever give me pain. I ſend you
" ten thouſand kiſſes.

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. VI.

" My dear Love,

" I have juſt ſeen your picture
" at Reynold's, and think it will be
" well done. I ſend you a million of
" kiſſes, and long to ſee you, on which
" account I will ſtay as ſhort a time as
" I can in the country. I hope to ſee

" you by Wednesday next. My life,
" think of me; remember I love you
" Satturday, Sunday, and every day.

" Yours ever,

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. VII.

" My Love,

" As there is no Rannela to day,
" I will call on you to night at nine
" o'clock. You will I know excuse my
" not calling now, as you know the
" hazard

" hazard I run in being ſeen in the day
" time, otherwiſe I ſhould be happey in
" ſeeing my love every minnitt; with
" ſending you a thouſand kiſſes.

" Yours ever,

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

" you by Wednesday next. My life,
" think of me; remember I love you
" Satturday, Sunday, and every day.

" Yours ever,

" Melbourne."

" To Mrs. Baddeley."

No. VII.

" My Love,

" As there is no Rannela to day,
" I will call on you to night at nine
" o'clock. You will I know excuse my
" not calling now, as you know the
" hazard

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MDZ Münchener DigitalisierungsZentrum Digitale Bibliothek

Steele, Elizabeth

The Memoirs Of Mrs. Sophia Baddeley, Late Of Drury-Lane Theatre In Six Volumes

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